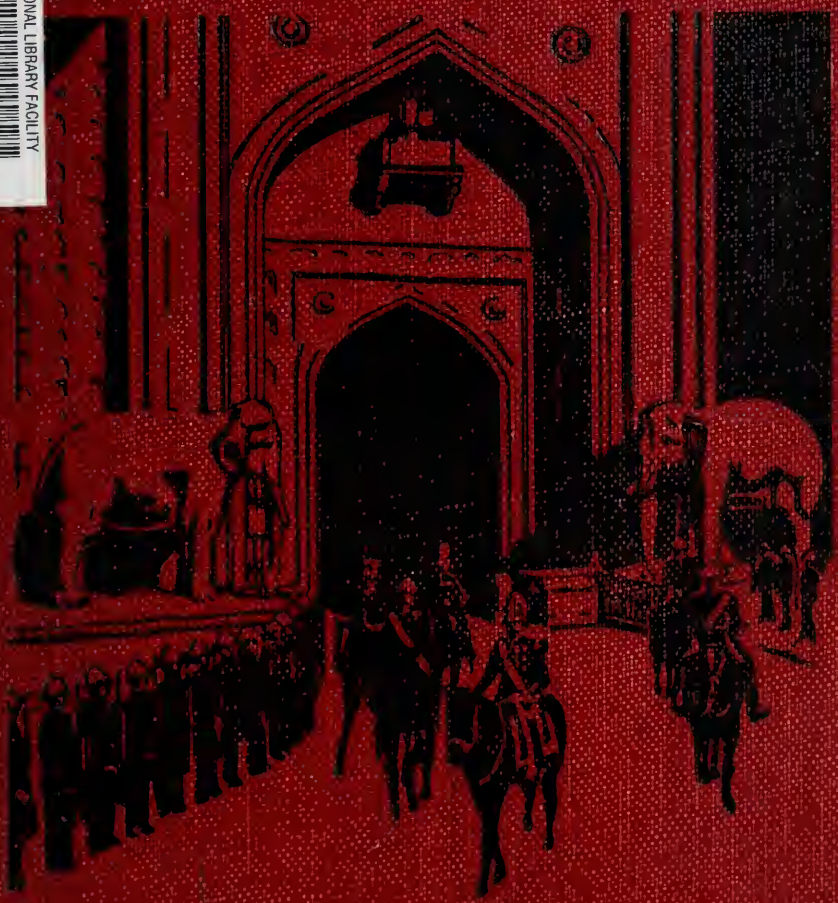
CAMBRIDGE GEOGRAPHICAL READERS



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CAMBRIDGE GEOGRAPHICAL READERS

EDITED BY G. F. BOSWORTH, F.R.G.S.

I.

THE WORLD AND ITS WONDERS

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1. OUR NATIVE LAND

The boys and girls who read this book can tell a great deal about the place where they live. Most children in the country know the names of many wild flowers, the best places to find them, and the time of the year to look for them.

Many of the wild birds are known to them, not only by their feathers, but by their song; and of course they know the favourite hedges and bushes where the nuts and blackberries grow.

Country children can tell us a number of things about a farm and the animals there, how butter and cheese are made, and about haymaking and harvesting. Many of their fathers work on the farm, and the children have a merry time when the grass is cut and made into hay. Harvest-time is the busiest season of the year, and the women and children often help to gather the crops.

There may not be any large buildings in a village, but we find sometimes old castles

Yealand—A Lancashire Village

Barrow-in-Furness—A Lancashire Town

and churches only a few miles away, and wonderful and strange stories are often told of what happened there in far-off days.

How strange all this seems to children who live in a busy town. Instead of one long quiet street, we find road after road, crowded with people, and lined with houses, workshops and factories. And how noisy it is too! The clatter of vehicles passing along from morning to night, the whistling of engines, and the shrieking of hooters seem quite deafening to the country child.

The boy in the town may not know much about farms, but he will be able to tell us about the fine buildings, the markets, and the factories. Perhaps his father works in one of the factories, and the boy will know what materials are used, and where they come from; what goods are made and whither they are sent.

But whether we live in a town or in the country, there is no place like home, for it is the place we love and know the best. That must be the reason why people of every country are proud of the land of their birth, and think it the finest in the world.

British boys and girls are proud of their island home. It is not the largest country in the world, but it is the land of freedom, and

we are happier in many ways than the people of other lands.

Most children have, at some time, been to the seaside. How we all enjoy a day there! It is so pleasant to watch the waves rolling on to the beach, and to search among the rocks for shells and fish, that children seem never tired of playing with the sand and building castles.

We live on an island, which is called Great Britain, and it is because we have the sea all round us that we are so free and happy.

For hundreds of years no army has been able to invade Britain. No enemy can come here without first crossing the sea, and that is not easily done while brave sailors guard our shores.

In many ways we are favoured. Although we say it is hot in summer, and cold in winter, it is hardly ever too hot or too cold for us to work. The soil is fertile, and the crops grow well. We also have great stores of the most useful minerals, coal and iron, and with the help of these our people are very clever at making useful things.

We build a great many ships, and these are sent from our ports to distant lands. They take the goods we make and do not require, and bring back goods which we need made

by the people of other countries. They also bring us all kinds of food, as we cannot grow enough to supply all our people.

2. A VISIT TO LONDON

PART I

It will now be well to read about London, and to hear about the visit paid to that great city by some children who had never seen it before. These children spent a few days in London, and so were able to see some of its wonders.

The first day they went to see some famous buildings. They took a short journey by train to Liverpool Street, and saw train after train, crowded with people, enter the station by the many platforms.

For a little while they watched the thousands of people hurrying off to work. They were of all sorts, rich and poor, men and women, boys and girls. There were Frenchmen and Germans, Italians, Japanese, and people from many other countries. Most of them were there for business, and a few for pleasure.

They then walked to the Bank of England, and gazed in wonder at the buses, cabs, and carriages of all kinds passing along the roads,

and thought they would never be able to cross. Then they saw a policeman hold up his hand; all the vehicles on their side at once stopped, and they crossed the road quite safely.

At length they reached the Tower, and for some time looked at the men on guard, who wore a strange kind of dress. It was exactly like that worn by the king's servants, hundreds of years ago.

They were told that these men were called Tower Warders, and they were pleased to know that one of these guides would show them round the Tower.

He told them that the oldest part, the White Tower, was built by William the Conqueror. Other kings built more towers, and dug a deep ditch outside, which used to be full of water, but is now quite dry. He showed them a low gate in the wall, called the Traitors' Gate, where the prisoners were brought in from the river.

They then went to the White Tower, and saw the room where the Young Princes were murdered, and the place at the foot of the stairs where their bodies were buried. They also saw the spot where people were beheaded.

The children felt sad, and were pleased to go to the room where the crown jewels are kept. They saw several crowns with very

beautiful jewels. For safety they are kept in a glass case inside a strong iron cage. In another room they saw some models of men on horses, covered with armour, to show how soldiers were dressed to fight in olden times.

In the afternoon they started for St Paul's Cathedral. The children had never seen so

The Traitors' Gate

large a building, and although a great number of people were inside, it seemed almost empty.

After looking at the huge pillars, the lofty dome, and the beautiful windows, they went into the crypt under the cathedral, and saw the tombs of some of our great men. The guide drew their attention to those of Nelson,

our greatest sailor, and Wellington, our greatest soldier, both of whom are buried there.

They were then taken up a great number of stairs to the Whispering Gallery. Their guide told them to put their ears to the wall, and went round to the other side. He said, "This cathedral was built by Sir Christopher Wren," and the words were heard quite clearly although he was so far from them.

From Nelson's tomb they went to Nelson's Monument in Trafalgar Square. This is a very tall column with the statue of Nelson on the top. There were crowds of people as they passed through Fleet Street, the home of newspapers, and along the Strand, where there is a large group of buildings called the Law Courts.

They went into the National Gallery for a short time, and saw a few of the finest pictures in the world. Those of animals, by Landseer, interested them the most, but they hope to see more another time. On the way down Whitehall they saw some fine soldiers called Horse Guards, and many large offices, where the business of the nation is carried on, and then right before them the Houses of Parliament, where the laws of the land are made.

Big Ben boomed out the time of day, just as the policeman at the door allowed them to pass into the Great Hall. A brass plate on

the floor shows the place where Charles I stood when he was tried by Parliament.

Close by the Houses of Parliament stands Westminster Abbey, within whose walls many famous men are buried. They noticed Poets' Corner, but had not time to look at the names of all the well-known writers.

The Houses of Parliament

What interested them most was the chair on which the king sits when he is crowned, and, under the chair, the stone on which the kings of Scotland used to sit when they were crowned.

3. A VISIT TO LONDON

PART II

The next day they went to London Bridge. It was nearly nine o'clock, the paths were crowded with people hurrying to their offices, and along the road buses, cabs, wagons, and carts of all kinds were passing in long lines across the bridge.

Another wonderful sight was the view down the river. Although fifty miles from the sea, large ships can come to London Bridge. The river was nearly as crowded as the bridge; boats, barges, sailing ships, and steamers were slowly threading their way to or from the wharves and docks.

They watched some of the vessels being unloaded. The huge cranes, with their long chains and hooks, drew out bales of wool, timber, chests of tea, boxes of fruit, frozen mutton, and many other things that come from distant lands.

It was wonderful how easily and quickly these goods were raised from the holds of the vessels, and swung round to the tall warehouses, where they are stored, or placed in barges beside the vessels.

From here they could see, on the left side

The Tower Bridge

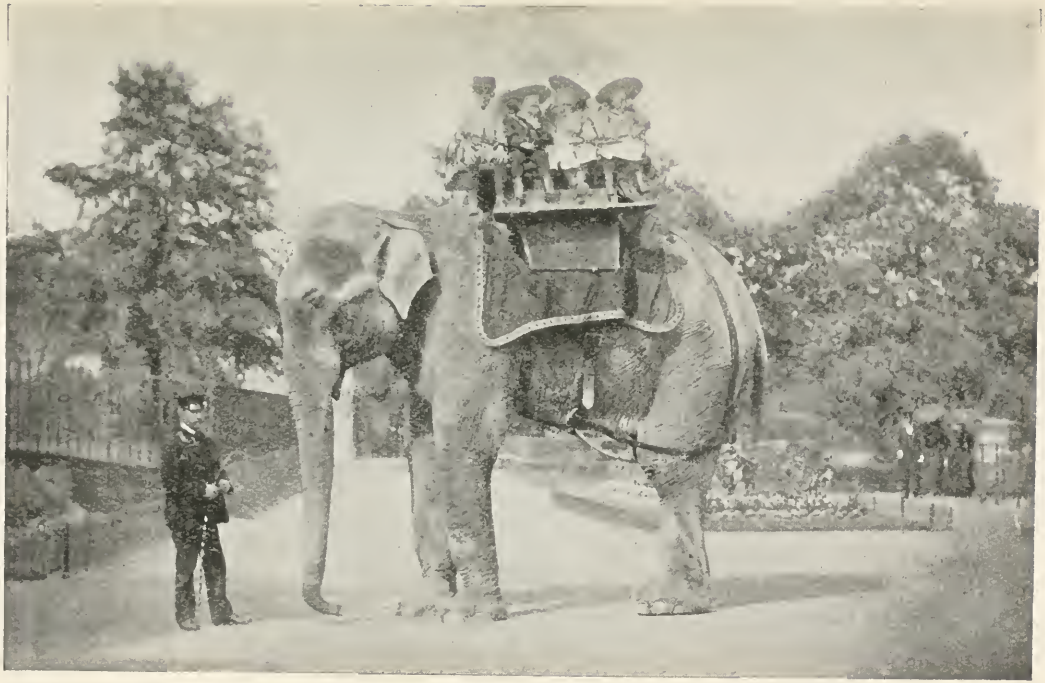
of the river, the Tower of London, and also, quite near the Tower, the last bridge that spans the Thames.

The Tower Bridge is really two bridges, one above the other. The lower one is for horses and vehicles, and also for people, and is almost as crowded as London Bridge. The central span of the carriage way has two drawbridges which can be raised in the short space of two minutes to admit of the passage of large vessels. When a vessel has passed through, the parts slowly return to their places and form a roadway again.

Everyone is warned by the ringing of a bell when the bridge is to be opened and all traffic stopped. People who are in a hurry cross the river by the upper bridge, but most people wait until the lower bridge is formed again and opened for traffic.

The children looked up the river; on the right is the Thames Embankment, one of the finest walks in London. The road is wide and trees are planted on either side. They could see Cleopatra's Needle, a very old sandstone obelisk, which was brought from Egypt, and in the distance the Houses of Parliament.

Our young friends had a most enjoyable day at the Zoological Gardens. The "Zoo," as it is usually called, has the finest collection of



An elephant-ride at the "Zoo"

wild animals in the world. There are animals from all parts, elephants and camels, lions and tigers, bears, monkeys, ostriches, and many animals and birds with very long names, that they had never seen or heard about.

How they enjoyed a ride on an elephant! They had to climb up a ladder to a little carriage on his back, because he was so tall. They went to see the animals fed, and heard the lions roar as they paced up and down their cages. Indeed all the animals made strange noises and seemed very wild just before feeding-time.

In the monkey-house were monkeys of all sizes scampering about. They seemed to be either chattering or eating, for visitors often give them nuts and sweets. The children kept away from the bars, for monkeys are very fond of snatching things from people. They often take a boy's cap, or a feather out of a lady's hat. The funny little tricks of these animals greatly delighted the children.

Another day they went to the Crystal Palace, the largest glass building in the world, and stayed quite late to see the fireworks. They visited other places in London during their holiday, but from what you have read you will no doubt think that London is a wonderful city.

4. OUR EMPIRE

British boys and girls are not only proud of their native land, but also of that great Empire over which our King reigns. On the King's Birthday, or on some other important day, you may have seen a flag floating in the breeze over some public building. That flag is the British flag. The Union Jack, as it is usually called, is the flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. It is also the flag of the British Empire.

Look at the map of the world and you will find that a great part of it is coloured red. All these countries and islands together form the British Empire. You will see that England is very small. It is wonderful that so small a country as our own should have been able to obtain all these lands.

Some of them have been gained by discovery, and others by victories over other nations. The growth of our Empire is a stirring story, and one that you will learn as you grow older.

You will see that we have land all over the world. One very common saying is: "The sun never sets on the British Empire." It is also true that a large portion of the goods that we need can be supplied from one or other of these countries.

If you look carefully at the map, you will be able to find all the countries that we propose to visit on our tour through the British Empire by the "All Red Route." Have you heard of the All Red Route? It is the route by which we could travel right round the world and call only at British ports for coal and provisions.

Suppose we were at Liverpool. We should find many ships ready to start for Canada. It would take nearly a week to get to that country. On landing we should notice that although most of the people are British, a great number are French, but they are both under the same flag.

Canada is a very large country. A train would take us from one side of Canada to the other in four or five days. We should pass through large forests, mile after mile of wheat-growing land, cattle farms, and mining districts.

We should then have another long journey by steamer to New Zealand, some islands so much like our own that they have been called the "Britain of the South." It is a wonderful land of hot springs and geysers.

Sailing in a north-west direction from New Zealand we come to Australia. Most of the people belong to our own nation and work and play very much as we do

From Australia our next visit would be to

India. This is a very different country from those we have visited. It is made up of many states, some of which are ruled over by native chiefs. The natives are dark-skinned and greatly outnumber the British, for it is a very hot country and in some places unhealthy for white people.

In olden times ships sailed from India to England round the Cape of Good Hope, but since the opening of the Suez Canal, most ships go that way as it is about 5,000 miles nearer.

We now have the choice of two All Red Routes. If we were to go the nearer way, we should pass through the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, call at Cyprus and Malta, and the strong fortress of Gibraltar, the "Key of the Mediterranean."

As we wish to visit South Africa, we take the longer route. On landing near the Cape, we find that the natives are black. Most of the other people are either British or Dutch, but they are working together under the British flag.

Our steamer now coals up and starts for home, which we reach in less than three weeks. On our way we should pass or call at St Helena, famous as the place to which Napoleon was banished.

Now you understand why we are proud of

our Empire and our flag, for the Union Jack is not only the flag of the Motherland, but of these "Britains overseas," which together make the greatest Empire of the world.

5. CANADA AND ITS WHEAT

After the brief account of our tour through the British Empire, you would like to know more about these countries.

Our first visit will be to Canada. It is the most northerly part of America, and about 2,000 miles to the west of England. Three hundred years ago Canada was the home of tribes of wild Indians, the wild buffalo, and the beaver. The Red Indians were tall and strong and their skin was of a reddish-brown colour. They were a very brave race, but as they were nearly always fighting, either among themselves or against the white man, there are not many left.

Canada is about seventy times as large as England, so that all kinds of weather may be found there. In the far north it is a land of ice and snow, but in the south very much like our own country, only rather colder in winter.

The people are mostly settlers, that is, people who have left their native land and

made new homes in other lands. Many of the people are farmers, for in some parts you may have much land for a small sum of money.

Many of our countrymen bought land on these terms, and are now well off. Of course it meant hard work before they really made it homelike, for it was only wild grass-land. The

A Canadian settler's hut

first thing the settlers do is to build a log house, near a river if possible; if not, they must sink a well, so that they have a supply of water. They then plough and sow as much of the land as they can. In a few years, with hard work and good weather, they will have quite a large farm.

The southern part of Canada is the finest wheat-growing country in the world. At harvest-time we may travel mile after mile, and see field after field of yellow corn.

Harvest is the busiest time of the year, and even the boys and girls have plenty to do then. Great machines, drawn by a team of horses, cut the corn, bind it into sheaves, and place them on one side. The men and boys set them up into shocks, and as soon as possible the grain is threshed and placed in bags ready to be taken to the railway station. It is then sent to a port and shipped to Britain and other lands, which do not grow enough to supply the needs of their people. The bread we eat is perhaps made from the corn grown in Canada.

Towards the west we should find large cattle farms, where hundreds of horses and cattle are kept. The cowboys, as the men are called, ride about all day on their horses to look after the cattle, for these farms are even larger than the wheat farms.

You will now like to know about the children, who are called our Canadian cousins. They are strong and healthy, and not afraid of work. The boys clean boots and chop wood, and the girls dress the younger children and help their mother before starting

for school, which is often three or four miles from home.

The schools are closed during the busy time in the summer, and after the harvest is gathered the children sometimes camp out in the woods. This is great fun, but winter is the

A Canadian street in winter

real holiday time. The winters are long and severe, the rivers and lakes are covered with ice, and the snow often falls to a depth of two or three feet.

Farmers are unable to work on the land, and, except for lumbering, very little work is done. The wheels are taken off the carriages

and carts, and runners are put on instead. Horses draw them very rapidly over the frozen snow, and this is the favourite way of visiting friends.

The boys and girls are fond of skating and tobogganing. A toboggan is a thin plank curled up in front. It usually holds one, but sometimes a party of four or five can sit on a large toboggan. They take it to the top of a hill, then sit down and gently push off. It rushes down faster and faster, till the level ground is reached, and then it comes to rest. Sometimes, when they are not careful, the children shoot head foremost into the snow-drift at the side, which of course adds greatly to the fun of the onlookers.

When walking, they wear snow-shoes. A snow-shoe is made something like a tennis-racket. It is about five feet long and one foot wide. It takes some time to learn to walk in these shoes, but the elder children glide along very quickly and often have races.

It is indeed a merry time for the youngsters. They so greatly enjoy the snowballing, skating, and other games on the ice, that it is no wonder that Canadian children love the winter.

6. AUSTRALIA, OR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

If you look at the globe, you will see that Australia is a very big country on the other side of the world. It is so far away that steamers take about six weeks to go there.

Most of the people are from the British Isles, and speak of our land as the "Old Country," for many of them have gone from England and made a new home in a new country.

Some things, however, would seem very strange to us. In Australia, Christmas comes at the hottest time of the year. When it is dark here, and we are fast asleep, the sun is shining brightly there, and the boys and girls are at school.

The birds and animals would seem curious to us. The swans have black feathers instead of white, and some of the birds cannot sing and others cannot fly. The largest bird is the emu, which is very much like an ostrich, and stands higher than a man. It has very strong thick legs, and can run very swiftly, but cannot fly.

Most of you have seen and heard parrots and cockatoos, but you would not like the screeching sound they make. Neither would you care to listen to the laughing jackass. He is a bird like the kingfisher, but when he

laughs the sound is like people laughing and shouting. He sings and laughs in the early morn and at sunset, but during the day he is busy searching for and killing snakes, and as many of these are dangerous, he is very useful.

The mammals are also strange, for most of them have a pouch in front. The mother carries her young ones about in this bag, and even when they can walk, they jump into the pouch when there is any danger.

The kangaroo is the largest animal of this kind. Its forelegs are very short and not used for walking or jumping. It does not run like other animals, but hops along on its hind legs, and jumps from ten to fifteen feet at each bound.

One of the great drawbacks of Australia is want of water. Some parts of the country are quite dried up in the summer, and in many parts farmers bore deep down into the ground and make wells.

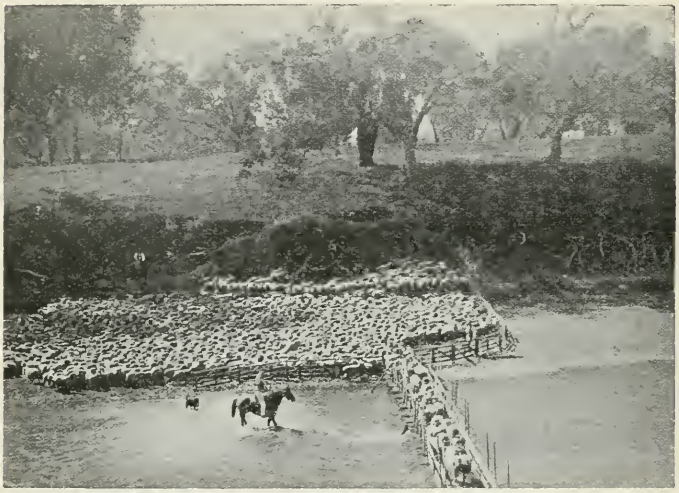
On the grassy plains, great flocks of sheep are kept, and you would like to visit a sheep farm. A "sheep run" or "station" is not near a town, but far up the country. For miles round, the hills are covered with tufts of grass and low scrub, which is called "the bush."

A "run" stretches for several miles, and some are so large that it takes three or four

The Kangaroo

days to ride round them. There are often a hundred thousand sheep on the large farms, but they are divided into flocks of about a thousand.

The men who look after the sheep have their breakfast very early, then saddle their horses, and ride round the station to see that



Sheep crossing a temporary bridge in Queensland, Australia

the sheep are safe, and that none of the wire fences are broken.

When the sheep have eaten the grass at one place they are moved on to another part of the farm; but in the summer all the flocks are driven from the distant feeding lands to the shearing sheds.

The sheep are put into pens and washed and shorn. Some of the best shearers can take the fleeces off a hundred sheep in a day. As the soft white wool is cut off, it is taken to the wool-shed. There it is sorted, pressed into bales, and packed in big wagons, ready to be sent to the nearest railway station. Lastly, most of it comes to England, where it is made into cloth, so that most likely some part of the clothes we are wearing came from sheep on the other side of the world.

The mutton we had for dinner may also have come from Australia, for thousands of sheep are killed every day, packed in linen covers, and frozen. They are then stored in ice-rooms on the large steamers, and although it takes six weeks to reach England, the meat is quite fresh and good for us to eat.

7. SOUTH AFRICA AND THE OSTRICH

South Africa also belongs to Britain. In some ways it is somewhat like Canada. There we found British and French living under one flag, and here we find British and Dutch working together to make South Africa a great country.

Long ago it was the home of black people, called Hottentots and Kaffirs. Then some Dutch farmers came and settled there and drove the blacks inland. After that some English settlers drove the Dutch from the coast.

For many years there was trouble. The savages would attack the white people, killing them and taking their cattle. Then the English and Dutch were often quarrelling, but now they are good friends, and all live and work under the British flag.

The grassy lands, which we call fields, are there called the veld. The veld is very different from our fields, for in the summer it is dry and parched, and there is hardly a green leaf or a blade of grass to be seen. The farmers have to dig wells or make dams, or the animals would die of thirst.

An ostrich farm is very interesting. We have no ostriches in England, but in South Africa a farmer will have hundreds of these birds. We think our turkeys and geese are large birds, but they would look like the smallest chicks beside an ostrich.

A full-grown ostrich is much taller than a man, and it can run quicker than a horse. Its wings are not very large, and of no use for flying, but it flaps them as it runs, and that helps the bird to go very quickly.

An Ostrich Farm

A large ostrich farm is divided into camps by strong wire fences. Those camps near the homestead are for the rearing of young birds that have been hatched, and then there are a number of small camps for pairs of birds to hatch and rear their own chicks. On the rest of the farm the ostriches may go where they will.

The fields are very dry in the summer, and these birds wander long distances in search of grass and leaves. The ostrich is not very particular, and many strange things find their way into its crop. It not only swallows small stones, which help to grind up the food, but also pieces of glass and nails.

You will remember that at the battle of Creçy the Black Prince took for his crest the three ostrich feathers of the king of Bohemia. Since that time ostrich feathers have been greatly used. You may have seen them in ladies' hats or on their fans. It is for these beautiful feathers that the ostrich is reared.

When the farmer wishes to take the feathers, a number of men, all mounted on horses and armed with thorn bushes, drive the full-grown ostriches into narrow yards, where there is no room for the birds to kick. A kick from their thick strong legs would easily break a man's

arms or legs, and the sharp claws on their feet are also very dangerous.

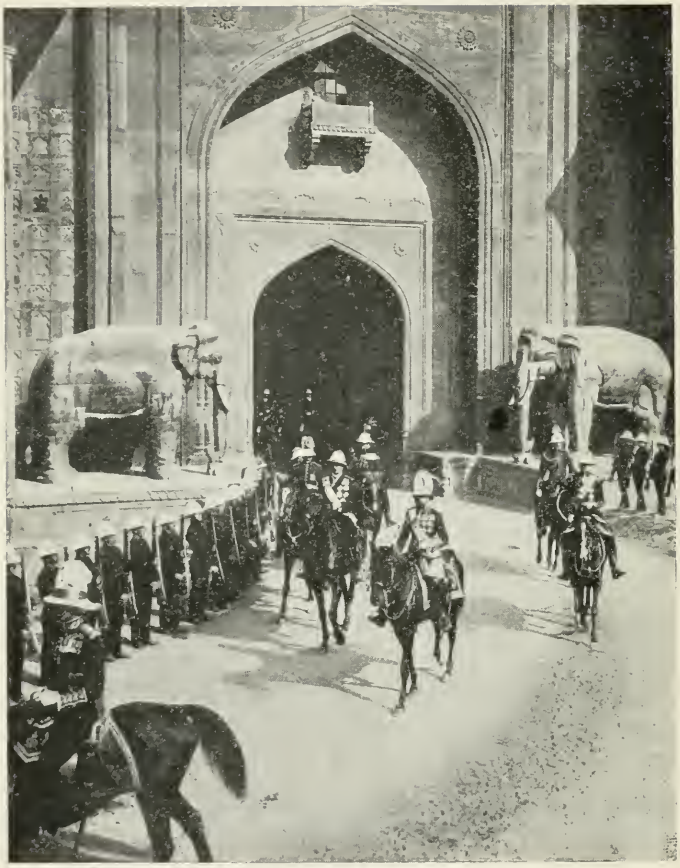
When the men are ready to take the feathers, a bag is put over the bird's head; it will then stand still, and the feathers are easily clipped.

Most of the farm-hands are natives, usually Kaffirs. They are tall strong fellows, dark-brown in colour, and have woolly hair. They live in huts made of reeds and grass. A number of these huts form a native village, called a kraal. The natives are very useful, for they not only work on the farms, but they act as servants, and also work in the mines, for South Africa is famous for its gold and diamond mines.

8. INDIA

We are now going to read about a great country which belongs to us. It is a long way off, but you will find it on the map of Asia quite easily, as it is shaped like a triangle.

Do you know that our King has another title? He is not only called the King of England, but Emperor of India as well. Soon after King George V and Queen Mary were crowned, they visited India.



The Coronation Durbar: The State Entry into Delhi
(*King George is seen in the centre, the Viceroy following on his right*)

Thousands of Indian princes and noblemen came to meet them. The princes wore costly robes, trimmed with gold lace and tassels. They also had beautiful jewels in their turbans, on their breasts, and on the hilts of their swords. Just fancy how all these jewels must have sparkled, as these princes passed before their Emperor seated on his throne.

The princes, one by one, laid their swords at his feet, to show that they owned him as their Emperor, whilst thousands and thousands of people, who were looking on, gave cheer after cheer. What a wonderful day it must have been to the people of India!

We should not like to live in India, for it is very hot, far hotter than we ever have it in England. During the heat of the day white people stay indoors, or they would have sunstroke.

For most of the year there is no rain at all, but when the dry season is over, the rain comes down in torrents for days together. In some places more rain falls in one day than we have in a whole year in many parts of England.

English girls would not like to change places with the little Hindus. The parents are very fond of their boys, but do not care much for their girls. If the family is poor, most of the hard rough work is done by the women

and girls. The girls of rich parents are not much better off, for they are shut up in the house, or, if they go out, they are covered with a thick veil.

Benares

We should like to pay a visit to Benares on the river Ganges. The Hindus think that this city is the holiest place on earth. They also believe that the water of the river is holy. Natives from all parts of India come here to bathe, and pour the holy water over their heads as they pray.

9. INDIA AND THE ELEPHANT

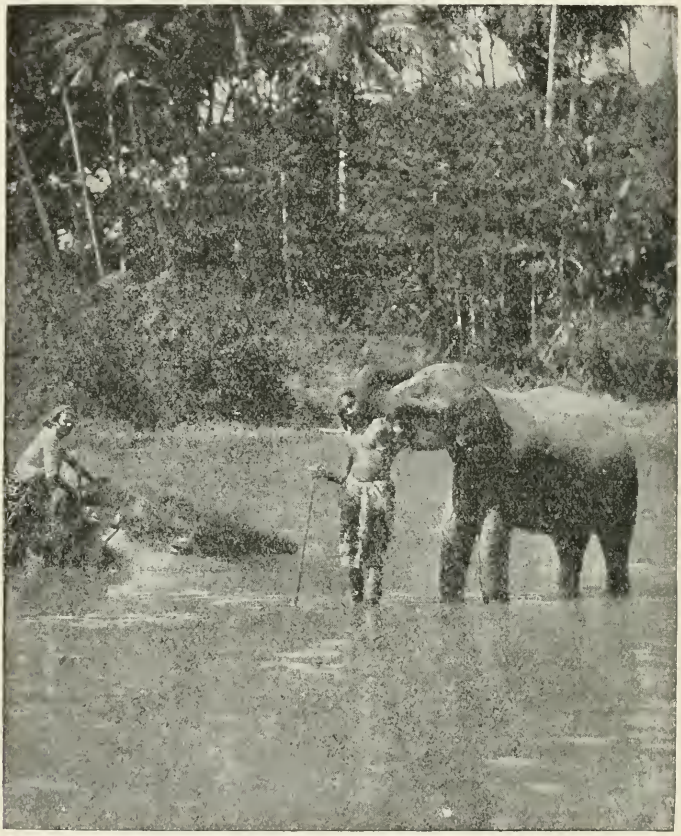
Have you heard of the wild animals that are to be found in the forests of India? We have some forests in England; perhaps you may live near one. One of the great delights of London children is to spend a day in summer-time in Epping Forest. It is so pleasant to hear the sweet song of the birds, to gather wild flowers, and to watch the rabbits scamper off to their holes. Sometimes we may see a squirrel jumping from tree to tree, or a deer bounding through the bracken, but we are not afraid of them, for they will do us no harm.

In India there are many large forests. They are full of trees, and shrubs, and beautiful creepers, but we should not care to spend a day alone in the jungle, as it is called. The soil is marshy, and the air is hot and moist like that of a hothouse, and causes headache and sometimes fever.

We should like to see the lovely birds and beautiful butterflies that are to be found there, but it is not safe to go into the jungle, for it is the home of deadly snakes and dreadful insects.

Many fierce animals are also found there, such as the wild elephant and tiger. Herds of elephants still roam over the hilly forests and feed on wild fruits and leaves. Sometimes,

however, they visit the farms near the villages and do a great deal of harm to the crops. The



Natives giving tame elephants a bath

natives drive them away by making as much noise as they can, by beating drums and blowing horns.

When roaming through the jungle, the mothers and young elephants go in front, and the males follow. But if there is any danger, the males will at once go to the front and bravely defend their young.

The elephant is by far the most important animal in India, because of his great strength and usefulness. The natives are very clever at trapping him, and tame elephants are used for taming their wilder brothers.

These splendid animals are very clever, and can be taught to do many things. An elephant can quite easily carry a log of wood which it would require thirty men to move, and can be so well trained that he will place it just where it is wanted.

Only very great people such as princes ride on elephants. He is also used for hunting tigers, which are the most dreaded beasts in India. Horses will run away when they hear the roar of a tiger, but the elephant with his strong tusks and powerful trunk is more than a match for the tiger.

Most children have seen an elephant, and many may have had a ride on his back, for when he is tamed and treated kindly, he is very gentle. How wonderful his trunk seems to us. It takes the place of our arms and hands. With it he carries food to his mouth when he

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is hungry; he also draws up water with it, and sends it down his throat when he is thirsty, or squirts it over his tough hide when he is hot. Many stories are told, which show how gentle and kind he is to those who treat him well, and also how he never forgets those who treat him unkindly.

10. OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOUR—FRANCE

If you look at the map you will see that France is the country nearest to our own. It is quite a short distance from England, and some steamers only take about an hour to cross from our shores.

Perhaps some of you may have been there with your parents, or if you live on the south coast, it may have been pointed out to you, for on a clear day the coast of France is seen quite easily from some places in Kent.

We should find it a very pleasant journey on a steamer, unless the sea were rough. The first thing we should notice on landing would be the strange way in which the people are talking. We should not be able to understand what they said, unless we had learnt French.

This will be the case with many of the countries we propose to visit. Nearly every country has a language of its own, and in many

ways the people seem strange to us, but we must remember that we seem quite as strange to them.

We should find that French children are dressed very much the same as English boys and girls. The little girls, however, have their frocks a little shorter, and the boys usually wear a blouse or tunic instead of a jacket.

The Dieppe boat leaving Newhaven

French boys are nearly always clean and tidy, however poor they may be. They attend school for more hours than English boys do, and pay great attention to their lessons. Until a few years ago they had few outdoor games, and that may be one reason why they do not always grow up so strong as English boys.

French girls, who are well cared for, have less freedom than English girls. They are not allowed to walk in the streets alone. A grown-up person even takes them to school and brings them home again.

The children are always well behaved. They are very polite and try to please. If we were to enter the children's room, they would

Young workers in the fields of south-western France

at once give up their chairs to us, and would open the door for us when we left.

Every man, rich or poor, at the age of twenty-one, has to be a soldier for a certain time. He lives at the barracks, and is taught all that a soldier should know, so that, should war break out with any nation, all the men may know how to fight to defend their country.

If we travel through the north of France, we find meadows, cornfields, orchards, and farms very much like our own. In the south it is warmer, and the vine grows quite easily out-of-doors.

A vineyard is a very pretty sight towards the end of summer, when the grapes are ripe and ready to be picked. Women and children pluck the ripe fruit and put it in baskets, and when these are full, the grapes are taken to a press, which squeezes the juice out of them, and this is made into wine.

We should also find great orchards of mulberry trees, for the French are famous for their silk goods. The silk is spun by silkworms, which feed on mulberry leaves.

The shepherds in the south-west move about on stilts strapped to their legs, and are as much at home on them as we are on our feet. They find this is the best way to walk through the marshes and over the loose sands.

11. PARIS

We are now going to pay a visit to Paris. The French are very proud of their fine city. Like London, it stands on a great river, and all day long steamers pass up and down.

If we took a trip on one of these steamers,

we should not wonder that the people think so much of their city and river. We should pass through lovely parks and gardens, under fine bridges, and on either side see beautiful palaces and churches. We should also pass the oldest part of the city, a small island in the middle of the river.

We will land and take a walk through the city. The houses are very tall, and we find that the people live in flats, that is, one family have all the rooms on one floor, and another family those on the next floor, so that several families live in one house.

In London, the chief playgrounds of the children are the large parks. The French children have playgrounds in their city, but their public gardens are not so large as our parks. We should find the boys and girls playing very much as English boys and girls play. They seem very merry, but perhaps they are not quite so noisy.

We should be sure to notice the nurses with their babies. Both are very smartly dressed. The nurses wear grey cloaks and snow-white caps, with coloured silk ribbons hanging down their backs.

We leave the gardens and pass along the main streets to see the fine shops and beautiful buildings.

The shops are prettily set out with all kinds of knick-knacks, for the French are very clever at making pretty and dainty things. We should notice the large house where the President of France lives, for the French have no king now.

The Luxembourg Gardens, Paris

We will, however, go through one of the palaces that belonged to the kings of France. It is now a great picture-gallery, like our National Gallery in London, and there we should see very beautiful pictures.

We could spend a week in Paris quite easily,

and then not see all the fine shops and buildings that are there. After a long ramble we should greatly enjoy our meal at the end of the day.

Many of the broad streets are planted with trees, and there we should find a great number of cafés, as they are called. In the evening, they are all brightly lighted by lamps or paper lanterns hung in the trees, and the scene is almost like fairy-land. Seated at little tables on the path, we should see a great number of people laughing and chatting as they sip their coffee, and we should also hear some merry tunes being played by a band.

12. THE LAND OF WINDMILLS

Over the sea, not far from England, is a country unlike any other country we have read about, for much of the land is lower than the sea. Holland, as this country is called, is not pretty, for it is so low and flat. It is something like parts of the east coast of England where we have built walls to keep out the sea.

The Dutch people have done the same thing. The sea walls, or dikes, as they are called in Holland, are made of stones and earth. They are high and wide, and so strong that in

some places roads run along the top of them, and trees are planted on either side.

The view from the top of the dike is most curious. On one side we may see vessels steaming across the sea, and on the other side, but lower down, the houses and windmills. Holland is a land of windmills, which are everywhere pumping away the water, to keep the land dry.

Holland is also a land of canals. In many of the towns there are canals instead of roads, and boats, instead of horses and carts, carry people and their goods to market.

Every boy and girl knows the English sparrow, for it is found everywhere in our country. A big bird called a stork is known quite as well in Holland, but no Dutch boy or girl would think of throwing a stone at it. The stork is a great friend to the Dutch, for it kills and eats little creatures that would make holes in the sea walls.

The people are proud of their dikes, and are always on the look-out that no damage is done to them, and that there are no holes in them; for if the waves were to break through, the land would be flooded, and not only would houses be washed away, but people and cattle would be drowned. When the sea is rough, special care is needed, for sometimes in a

storm the sea has broken through the dikes and whole towns have been swept away.

There is a story of a brave little boy that the Dutch people are fond of telling their children. This little boy was going home one evening, when he heard the sound of trickling water. He searched and found a tiny hole in the sea wall. He knew how great was the danger; for unless the hole were stopped at once, it would soon grow larger; the dike would be broken down, and the country flooded.

He found that his finger would just fill the hole, so he put it in, hoping that some one would soon pass. Hour after hour passed and it was morning before he was found. Help was brought at once, and the little hero, tired and cold, was taken home. His brave act has never been forgotten, for he saved his country.

Look at the picture and you will see that the children are not dressed as you are. The boys have very wide trousers and little round caps, whilst the girls have wide stiff dresses and big white caps. And what a clatter the children make when they are playing, for both boys and girls wear big wooden shoes.

The children like playing by the side of the canals, and are fond of sailing boats, but their boats are usually their wooden shoes. When they go home, they take off their shoes at once

Scene in a Dutch village

and wear slippers, for the people keep their houses very clean.

The cow-houses and stables are kept as clean as the cottages. The Dutch are very fond of their cows, and in cold or rainy weather they put a thick woollen coat on the cow's back, to keep it warm and dry.

Winter is a merry time in Holland. The rivers and canals are frozen for a long time. Skates are brought out for all the family, for children can skate before they can read. They skate everywhere; the children skate to school, the men skate to their work, and the women skate to market, with their baskets full of butter and eggs on their heads.

13. THE REINDEER OF LAPLAND

If you look at the map of Europe, you will find that the most northerly part is called Lapland. The winter is very long, lasting for seven or eight months, so it is a land of ice and snow.

The summer is very short, and for about six weeks the sun does not set, and so it is called the "Land of the Midnight Sun."

Very few animals are found there, and as it is so cold the trees and plants are all small. The Lapps, as the people are called, are also

small. They are not taller than many of our big boys, but they are strong and hardy.

The reindeer is one of the most useful animals in the world. The Lapps depend on it for nearly all they want. It is an animal something like the deer we see in our parks and forests, but its antlers are much larger.

It takes the place of the cow, the horse, and the sheep, for it gives the Lapps good milk to drink; and when it is killed they eat its flesh, and the fat is used for oil. It pulls their sledges over the snow, and can run nine or ten miles an hour with a heavy load, even as much as two hundred pounds. Its skin is used for making clothing, and from its horns knives and spoons are made.

A Lapp is said to be rich or poor according to the number of reindeer that he has. A rich Lapp would have a thousand to two thousand reindeer, whilst a man who only owned fifty would be poor.

Very few of the Lapps live in towns; most of them move from place to place in order to find food for their reindeer. In the winter it feeds on what is called reindeer moss. As the ground is often covered with four or five feet of snow, the reindeer uses both antlers and hoofs to obtain its food from under the snow.

In the summer, the poor reindeer are greatly

troubled by gad-flies and gnats in the lowlands; so they are taken to the mountains where they are free from the stings of these insects. There they eat the soft shoots of bushes and small trees.

You would not like to live in the Lapp's tent. It is made of coarse woollen cloth, and the door is so small that you have to stoop to enter. The fire is made in the middle of the floor, and the smoke finds its way out by a hole in the roof or through the door. Skins are spread on the ground near the fire, and these serve as chairs and beds.

In the winter the Lapps wear very warm clothing, which is made from the skin of the reindeer. In order to keep their feet warm, they wrap dried grass round their thick stockings, before pulling on their reindeer-skin boots. Then, with a pair of thick mittens and a fur cap, they keep quite warm even in the coldest weather, and travel long distances in their sledges.

They have two kinds of sledges, both shaped something like a boat. One kind is very low, and is usually drawn by one reindeer. The other is much higher, and is mounted on runners. This is drawn by three or four reindeer, and is mostly used for carrying heavy loads or making long journeys.

A Laplander bringing home his bride

(*In Lapland most marriages are celebrated at Christmas time*)

The Lapp boys and girls are very fond of the reindeer, and greatly enjoy a ride on its back, or in a sledge. Nearly every boy has a reindeer, and he looks forward to the time when he will be grown up and have a large herd of his own.

14. THE LAND OF SONG AND SUNSHINE

We now come to a land where we should like to spend some weeks. It is a land of sunshine. The sky is very blue, and the sun shines all day long. You can easily find Italy on the map of Europe.

It is so warm that all kinds of flowers and fruits such as oranges and grapes grow in the open air.

Italy is a land of ancient cities, and these are as beautiful as the flowers. In no other country are there so many beautiful towns, famous buildings, and such lovely pictures and statues as in Italy. Some of the greatest painters, sculptors, and musicians have been born in this country.

The Italians are all very fond of music, and almost everyone can sing and play. They have dark skins, brown or black eyes, and very dark hair. They dearly love their country,

and although they go to other lands, they are always delighted to return to their own sunny land.

You would be pleased to be there when the grapes are ready to be picked. All the family go out, and father, mother, and children all help to pick the ripe fruit. It is pleasant to hear the merry voices, and to watch the fingers, little and big, all busily picking the ripe fruit.

When the grapes are picked, they are placed in large tubs called vats, and the juice is squeezed out of them.

The chestnut season is another busy time for the children. They take big bags and go out into the woods to pick up chestnuts. English boys like gathering chestnuts, but we do not eat them. Those that grow in Italy are like those we have at Christmas, and which we like so well when they are roasted.

Chestnuts form the chief food of many of the poorer people in Italy. When the bags are full, the children take them home and the chestnuts are laid out to dry. As soon as they are dry, the shells are taken off and most of the chestnuts are ground into flour.

The poor people eat them all the year round; they not only boil and roast chestnuts, but the flour is made into cakes and bread.

We will now visit one of the most beautiful

A Venetian gondola

cities in Italy. Venice is often called the "Queen of the sea," because it is so beautiful and is built on hundreds of small low islands.

Instead of streets it has canals, and boats take the place of carts and carriages. The water comes right up to the houses on each side. There is a flight of steps from each house down to the water, and on these steps the children often play.

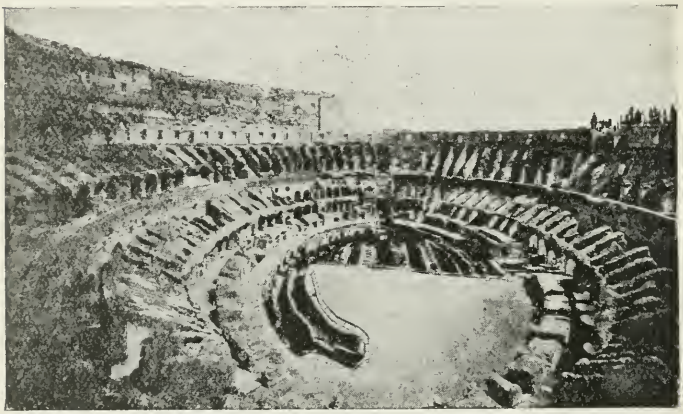
The Grand Canal is the most important, for here are the palaces of the nobles and merchants, and gondolas with gaily clad boatmen pass up and down. A gondola is a flat-bottomed boat. The ends are curved upwards and come to a point, and are often beautifully carved. In the middle is a kind of small room, in which the people sit. The boats are sometimes thirty or forty feet long.

At holiday times, water parties are held, and the boats look very pretty, all gaily decked with flags and flowers. But the scene is even prettier at night, for then lamps are hung all over the boats and round the windows of the houses. Long lines of boats pass up and down the canals, full of young folks laughing and singing.

15. ROME AND ITS WONDERS

Rome is the chief city of Italy, and people come from all parts of the world to see its famous ruins and beautiful buildings. Artists visit this city, because it contains some of the finest pictures and statues in the world.

You know that the Romans were once rulers of our country, and that some of our



Interior of the Colosseum, Rome

best roads were made by them. Two thousand years ago, Rome was a very great city. It was then, just what London is now, the largest city in the world, and the capital of a vast empire.

The ruins remind us of those far-off days. We will visit one of the most famous ruins in the world, the Colosseum. This was the great

theatre or circus to which the Romans of old went for amusement.

We can sit on the grass-grown seats, under the open sky, and look down into the arena, where, long ago, chariots dashed round the course, men fought with each other or with wild beasts, and where Christians were sometimes thrown to be killed by the lions. The dens in which these wild animals were kept may even now be seen.

We see only the ruins of about one-third of this building. In early days eighty thousand people could be seated there. It was over six hundred feet long and more than five hundred feet wide. If we measure our playground we can then form some idea of the size of this theatre.

Near by is the Forum, an oblong space, where in olden times the people used to flock to hear their great speakers. Just outside the walls of the city are some very large caverns, hewn out of the solid rock, and running for miles underground. They were at first used as tombs by the Romans, and afterwards as hiding places by the Christians, who were very cruelly treated by the Romans.

Many fine churches are to be seen there. St Peter's is the largest and most beautiful cathedral in the world. It took nearly two

hundred years to build. Those of you who have visited St Paul's Cathedral can form some idea of the size of it, for St Paul's could be placed inside, and then there would be plenty of room left for people to walk about.

Near St Peter's is the Vatican, the largest palace in the world. It is the home of the Pope, and besides the beautiful gardens around it, there are chapels, picture-galleries, libraries, and museums filled with lovely paintings and old and rare books.

16. VESUVIUS AND POMPEII

On our voyage to Italy we should first call at Naples, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It stands on a lovely bay, and all around are beautiful gardens, vineyards, and orange groves. The view from the water is so fine that the Italians have a well-known saying, "See Naples and die."

Beyond the city are some high mountains, and we might see a puff of steam or smoke shoot out from the summit of one just outside Naples. This is Vesuvius, the best known volcano in the world. People used to say that a volcano was a burning mountain; this is not quite right, for when anything burns it grows smaller, but this mountain grows larger.

It is really a kind of chimney through which steam and smoke pass, but sometimes hot cinders and large pieces of stone are thrown out.

People who visit Naples usually make a journey to Vesuvius. At the foot of the mountain you find houses, surrounded with vineyards and wheat-fields, for the soil is very fertile.

As you mount, the ground becomes hotter and hotter; indeed, it is so hot that you must keep on moving. A few inches beneath you the earth is red hot, and a stick placed between the stones would soon burn. At last you find yourself on the edge of a big bowl out of which come clouds of smoke and steam. When the wind blows these clouds away, you may perhaps see, a long way down, the red glow of the burning lava.

We can only make this journey when the volcano is working quietly. Sometimes it is very active, and great volumes of steam, ashes, and red-hot cinders shoot up into the clouds, and are carried by the wind for miles; great blocks of solid rock are also thrown into the air, and the lava boils over and flows down the mountain-side.

Whole towns have been buried at the foot of Vesuvius. The most famous of them was

Pompeii. It was a beautiful city with fine houses and temples. One day in August, nearly two thousand years ago, there burst

Vesuvius and Pompeii

from the crater a great mass of black smoke. It spread very quickly and the city was soon in darkness. Great showers of ashes and stones also fell.

This dreadful rain of ashes and stones became thicker and heavier, and then with an awful roar great openings appeared in the side of the mountain, streams of hot black mud rushed down the mountain-side, and in a few hours Pompeii and several cities near by were buried beneath a thick bed of ashes, stones and mud.

So completely were they hidden that the position of these cities was not known for hundreds of years. Parts of Pompeii have now been dug out, and we may walk through some of the streets. In the museum we may see the pots and pans of the kitchen, children's toys, and ladies' chains and bracelets. At the chief gate of the city a sentinel was found with his sword in his hand. He had bravely kept to his post to the last.

17. SUNNY SPAIN

Spain is a land of sunshine, and as it is, like Italy, a country of Southern Europe, you would expect to find fruit like the orange and grape growing in the open air, and, perhaps, chestnut trees too. You would be quite right, for Spain is noted for its oranges, grapes, and nuts.

The orange tree is an evergreen and has

white flowers. Many of you may know the pretty flower of the syringa, and as this is so much like orange blossom, the shrub is known by two names, syringa or "mock orange."

You would like to walk along the groves when the trees are laden with fruit. Perhaps

An orange grove in Spain

you may have seen an orange tree in England, for it is sometimes grown against a south wall.

The oranges sent to us are picked when they are changing from green to yellow, that is, before they are ripe, as they usually ripen on the voyage. In the district around Seville, in the south of Spain, a special kind of bitter

orange is grown. We do not eat it as a fruit, but we are very fond of the marmalade made from it.

Do you know that much of our Christmas fare comes from Spain? In our puddings we have peel and raisins. The peel is the rind of the bitter orange and citron dried and candied, and the raisins are prepared from a certain kind of grape which grows in the south of Spain. Then we sometimes have figs, almonds, chestnuts, walnuts, and Barcelonas or Spanish nuts, all of which grow well in Spain.

Another article much used for life-belts, decorating window boxes, and stopping bottles, is obtained from the bark of the cork-oak which grows in the forests of Spain. The cork is the outer bark of the tree and is stripped off about every eight years.

The sunny land of Spain is like Italy also in that it was at one time the most important country in the world. Its sailors were as bold and hardy as our own, and, before the days of Drake, were the leading traders of the world. If you look at the map of Spain you will find the names of many places that you know, Cadiz, Gibraltar, Trafalgar, and others famous in history.

Spain is a beautiful and interesting country, but the people are lazy, and more fond of

pleasure than work. They never appear to be in a hurry, and do not mind how much time they waste. This, however, may be due to the climate, for the heat is so great that everyone has a nap in the afternoon.

The Spaniards, however, have many good qualities. They are brave and polite, and although the peasants may not be clever and are rather idle, they are very cheerful and contented, and bear many hardships without grumbling. And although nearly everyone drinks wine, which is the usual drink in that country, it is a very uncommon thing to see a drunken man.

The people like to dress in bright colours, and are very fond of music and dancing; but their chief amusement is bull-fighting. In every large town there are circuses to which the people flock at holiday time to watch this sport. It is a very cruel sport and one that we should not allow in our land, or care to see, for we believe in kindness to animals.

18. THE WONDERS OF THE NILE

We are now going to read about what is one of the oldest countries in the world. You have all heard of Joseph, who was sold as a slave and afterwards became a great ruler in

Egypt. That was nearly four thousand years ago, and people who are able to read the picture-writing on stones tell us that there were big cities three thousand years before that. But no one quite knows how old Egypt really is.

If you look at the map you will see that all the towns are quite near to the river Nile; indeed, if there were no Nile, there would be no towns. Egypt appears to be a large country, but the real Egypt is only a narrow strip on either side of the river Nile.

The soil is very rich and the people are able to grow two or three crops a year. Hardly any rain falls in Egypt, and yet the people grow cotton, sugar, and rice, besides wheat and other grains that we grow in England. This could not be done but for this wonderful river, so we can easily understand why the people of Egypt in olden times used to worship the river Nile as a god.

You will see from the map that the Nile begins in a very large lake in the heart of Africa. There are some very high mountains there covered with snow, and when the snow melts in the spring, the river rises far above its usual level and overflows its banks.

The waters spread out over the country and cover it with rich mud, on which the crops

are grown. Clever men have made much more of the land useful by turning one part of the river into a very large lake, and by cutting canals from the river across the fields.

By this means much more of the land is flooded when the Nile overflows, and the water is also stored in the lake and canals for use when the river is at its usual level.

A trip up the river in one of the steamers is very pleasant. We should see beautiful palm trees along the banks, and, in the fields beyond, the pretty flowers of the cotton plant, sugar cane, and Indian corn. We should also catch a glimpse of the native villages, for the peasants mostly live near the river.

All the houses are built of Nile mud. It is mixed with a little straw and made into bricks, very much as we use clay in England. Most of these villages have walls round them, and a wide ditch outside. This is to protect the villages when the Nile overflows, and in the dry season it is the favourite place with the children for play.

Every village has its well, and here we should find the women come in the morning and evening to fill their large water-jugs, which they carry on their heads, whilst the men would sit by, smoking and talking.

We should stay at Khartum, and visit the

Sirdar's Palace, where we should find some British soldiers. Khartum is where General Gordon died, and a college has been built in memory of him, in which the sons of the native chiefs are being educated.

Water-carriers on the Nile

We must now go back to Cairo, for most people who visit Egypt stay here for a few days. It is a very large city and everything is so different from what it is in England. In the native part we find people of many races, clad in strange Eastern costumes. The men wear long robes and a red cap, and round this they

The Great Pyramid and the Sphinx

sometimes wind a long scarf. The women wear long dark cloaks, and if they are rich they wear a white veil, that covers their faces.

The donkey boys, found everywhere in Cairo, are very jolly little fellows. Their donkeys are larger and finer than those of England, and are far more used for riding than horses.

Most of you will have seen a picture of the Pyramids. These wonderful monuments are about seven miles from Cairo and were built nearly five thousand years ago. One is very large indeed, and higher than St Paul's Cathedral. Near the Great Pyramid is the Sphinx. It is hewn out of the solid rock, but no one knows exactly for what it is meant, or how old it is.

19. THE FAR EAST—CHINA

China is a very big country in the Far East. It is one of the oldest countries in the world, but most of the people have changed very little in their ways. Hundreds of years ago they farmed their land and dressed themselves very much as they do now.

We know that long long before anything was known of our country, the Chinese had large cities, printed books, and made gunpowder.

China is sometimes called "the land of the pig-tail," for the Chinaman wears his hair in a long plait down his back. We may often see him at large seaports in our country.

It is perhaps the queerest country in the world, and we are going to read about some of the strange things there. If we went to dinner in a Chinese home, we should have rice, fish, and meat, but there would be no knives, or forks, or spoons on the table. We should find instead two small sticks of ivory called chop-sticks.

The Chinaman and his family would soon empty their dish of rice, but we should spill more on the cloth than we should get into our mouths. Then there would be sweetmeats, and we should finish with tea, but we should not like it very much, as there would be neither milk nor sugar in it.

Outside we should find things quite as strange. Let us take a walk through the city. We should soon come to a river, for there are few railways in China, and as most of the goods are carried in boats, nearly all the large towns are on or near a river.

The strange-looking boats we see are called junks, and have brought tea or rice from the fields to the steamers. The river is crowded with boats, and thousands of people have no

Chinese house-boats, Canton

other home than a boat. The children who live on the boats have a piece of wood tied to their waists. This saves them from drowning if they should fall overboard.

The streets are narrow, and not wide enough for carriages. People who wish to ride use a sedan chair. This is a kind of covered chair swung on long bamboo poles. Two or more men lift these poles to their shoulders and carry the chair along. Here are two ladies seated on a wheelbarrow; what a strange shape it is! It has a large wheel in the middle, with one of the ladies on each side.

There is a special mode of fishing which is practised by the Chinese. Instead of rods or nets they have some black long-necked birds. These birds have been trained to dive into the water, catch the fish, and bring them to their masters. A ring is fixed round their necks, so that they cannot swallow any but small fish.

As we pass along, we hear a great noise coming from a Chinese school. On entering, we find that the boys are not playing a game, but learning their lessons, which they shout at the top of their voices. If a boy were quiet, the teacher would think he was lazy.

Do you know where a Chinese book begins? It begins where an English book ends, that is,

our last page is their first page; and then instead of reading across the page from left to right, it reads from top to bottom, starting at the right side of the page.

Outside there are some boys playing with peg-tops, others are flying kites, and there are

A Chinese wheelbarrow

men also with kites, for kite-flying is a favourite amusement with the Chinese.

In the distance we notice some very tall buildings—these are pagodas or churches. They are sometimes seven or even nine stories high and have eight sides. They are very pretty, as

each story is smaller than the one below, and the roofs are beautifully carved. You may see a model of one at Kew Gardens.

Just notice how badly that lady walks! What tiny feet she has! Her parents were rich, and when she was quite a little girl, her feet were bound very tightly so that they could not grow. Many of the parents are now wiser and do not bind the feet of their girls.

There are many other strange things yet to be seen in China, but let us now pay a visit to Japan.

20. THE FAR EAST—JAPAN

The Japanese and Chinese are near neighbours, very much the same as the English and French. If you look at the map you will see that Japan consists of a group of islands off the coast of Asia, just as Britain is a group of islands off the coast of Europe.

As we approach the country, we see a beautiful mountain-peak, shaped like a sugar-loaf, with a white snow-cap on it. This is the highest mountain in Japan, and this scene is often painted by Japanese artists, for the country all round is very beautiful.

This volcano, Fuji-yama, is called extinct because it has not thrown out ashes and mud

for about two hundred years. There are many active volcanoes, and thousands of people visit Asama, the most famous in Japan, but they have to be very careful, for at any moment it

Fuji-yama

may send out glowing masses of stones and ashes.

In countries where there are active volcanoes, the earth sometimes shakes and opens

in great cracks. At these times houses tumble down and lives are often lost.

It is chiefly for this reason that the Japanese houses are only one story high, and built with such light materials.

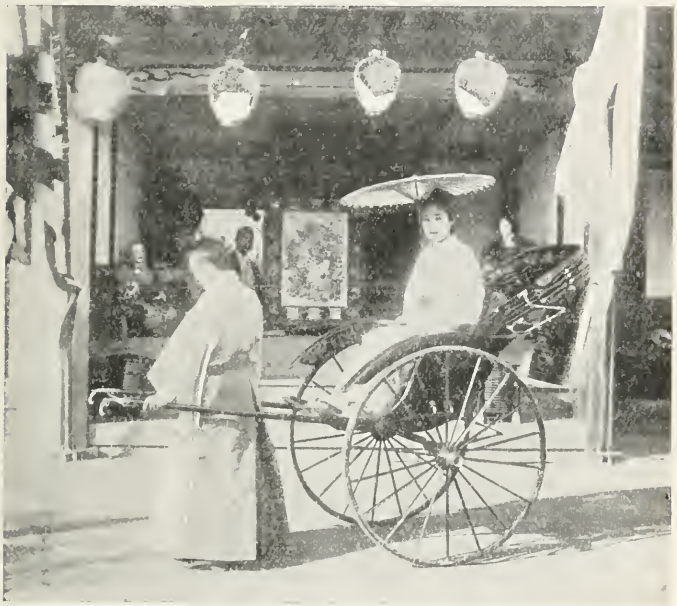
A Japanese house is easily built. The sides are open framework, made of bamboo and tough paper. These slide along in grooves and form both doors and windows. There is usually only one large room, but this is often divided into smaller rooms by screens. This is what is done at bedtime.

During the day you would see nothing of the beds, for if you looked in you would only see pretty mats made of rushes. As the floor is really used both for table and bed, the Japanese always take off their shoes when they enter the house. At bedtime a wooden pillow and some quilts are brought out, laid on the straw mats, and the Japanese sleep quite comfortably.

When the Japanese go on a journey they usually ride in a jinricksha or ricksha, which means "carriages drawn by men." They are something like a baby carriage and very comfortable. The ricksha men are strong and can run a long way quite easily and quickly.

You would be delighted with the shops in Japan, for the people are famous for the many

useful and beautiful things they make from paper and straw.



A Japanese jinricksha

21. THE FAR EAST—LITTLE JAPANESE

Japan is sometimes called the "Children's Paradise," for everyone is kind to the babies. The children are taught to be kind and gentle and polite to everyone. Indeed, they are among the most polite children in the world, and very rarely quarrel.

The little Japanese are smaller than English children, and instead of rosy cheeks they have a pale yellow skin, and very dark hair and black, beady eyes. Their clothes are loose and often made of silk. They have no pockets, but if you were to look inside their big sleeves, you would find as many toys and playthings tucked away as British boys put in their pockets.

The children are very fond of pets. You may have seen goldfish in our parks; they are great favourites, and in nearly every house you would see a large globe in which they keep these pretty fish. They are also fond of insects, and keep all kinds of beetles and flies, and are very clever at taming grasshoppers, which they keep in small bamboo cages.

Many of their toys are like ours, such as dolls, tops, and kites. The boys love kites, and grown-up men are quite as fond of kite-flying as the children, and you may often see whole families out with their kites. Some of them are so large that they take two men to fly them.

Most of our boys and girls like Christmas, it is such a merry time. The Japanese children have three Feasts that they love. The Feast of Dolls is a time of great fun. It is the greatest day of the year for the girls. They have dolls to play with all the year round; but besides these they have some very beautiful dolls, that

The Boys' national fête at Yokohama

(*A view in the poorer quarter of the city, showing paper fish flying from every house containing boy children*)

are packed away very carefully, and only brought out at this season, when the girls give doll parties and invite their friends.

The great day of the year for boys is the Feast of Flags. On that day a tall bamboo post is set up before or over every house where there are boys. A big paper fish, made of brightly coloured paper, floats from it, and as the wind blows into the hollow paper, the fish wriggles just as though it were swimming in a stream.

The shops are full of toys. Many of them are dolls and soldiers, and the boys, of course, love the soldiers. There are famous generals, drummer-boys, soldiers on foot, some on horseback, soldiers of all ranks, and flags and swords, for the Japanese boy likes nothing better than a toy army to play with.

Another feast which all enjoy is the Feast of Lanterns. It is like a treat day with us. The children are dressed in their best clothes, and march through the streets, singing songs and carrying prettily coloured paper lanterns. It is hard to say which is better, the day or the evening, for in the evening the lanterns are lighted, and if we could look on at this time we might think we were in fairy-land, as the pretty dresses, happy faces, and brightly coloured lanterns make a most beautiful scene.

22. COLUMBUS AND THE NEW WORLD

We have seen that the British Isles lie off the western shores of Europe, and that by taking a voyage westward for nearly three thousand miles we come to America. Four hundred and thirty years ago the people of Europe did not know of this country, for no one had crossed the Atlantic.

Few stories are more wonderful than that of the discovery of America. Christopher Columbus, the man who found the New World, was born at Genoa. He went to sea at an early age and made many voyages in the Mediterranean.

A few travellers and traders had been to the Far East. Some had been to Japan, some to China, and some to India. They had brought back fine silks and lovely shawls, and told wonderful stories of the people, and of the gold and silver and precious stones found there.

Columbus thought a good deal about these stories, and carefully studied what few maps and charts there were in those days. As a result of his studies, he felt sure that the earth was not flat, as everyone supposed, but that it was round, and therefore it would be possible to reach India by sailing westward.

This we now know is true, but then the people laughed at him, and looked upon him

Christopher Columbus

as a madman, because of his strange ideas about the shape of the earth.

It was many years before he could get

ships with which to sail westward on a voyage of discovery. He applied to the king of Portugal, then to the king of Spain, and even to Henry VII, king of England, but none would help. At last, however, the king and queen of Spain agreed to provide him with ships.

In the summer of 1492 Columbus set sail with three small vessels, of which the *Santa Maria* was the largest.

He stayed for a few days at the Canary Islands, and then sailed westward for nearly two months. He had great trouble with his sailors, who wanted him to turn homewards. Indeed, some writers tell us that they were ready to throw him overboard; only he promised to turn back if land was not seen in three days.

Columbus, however, felt quite sure that he would soon reach land, for he had noticed pieces of wood and sugar-cane floating by, and some land birds hovering round the ships. Quite early one morning the travellers were awakened by the sailor on the look-out shouting "Land! Land!" You can imagine the excitement when they saw a beautiful island.

The discoverer, richly clad in scarlet clothes, was rowed ashore and was the first to set foot on the New World. He was followed by the captains of the other ships and a number of

the sailors. After they had all knelt down and thanked God, Columbus named the island San Salvador (St Saviour) and took possession of it in the name of the king and queen of Spain.

He rested there for two days and then continued his voyage, discovering the islands of Cuba and Haiti. Columbus thought these islands were off the coast of India, so he called them the West Indies, a name by which they are known to this day.

After staying for about two months, Columbus took some of the natives, some animals, and some fruit, and sailed for Spain, where he was received with great joy and honoured by the king and queen.

He afterwards made three other voyages to the New World, and landed on the mainland of South America. He died, however, in the belief that he had found a new way to India. Sad to say, he died in poverty, for he had many enemies who were jealous of him.

His discovery, however, has made his name famous for ever, and many people think that the country should have been named after him.

23. DRAKE'S VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD

"Merrie England" in the days of "Good Queen Bess" is always a favourite period in English history with boys and girls. They think at once of Hawkins, Drake, Howard, Ralegh, and other brave men of that time. It was these men who gained for England the proud title of "Mistress of the Seas."

These sea-rovers did not mind even turning pirates and plundering the Spanish ships laden with gold and silver. Those were indeed stirring times when the English flag was carried over seas where it had never been before, and when our sailors became a terror to the Spaniards.

The story of Drake's deeds alone would fill a book much larger than this. In this chapter we are going to read about his journey round the world, for he was the first Englishman to do so.

In 1572 Drake set sail from Plymouth with two small ships and a company of seventy men. He plundered several towns in Central America and seized the cargoes of some of the Spanish ships. It was during this voyage that he saw for the first time the great Pacific Ocean. He had landed on the isthmus of Panama, and

from a tree on the summit of a hill he saw the waters of the great ocean on which no English ship had yet sailed. He prayed that he might one day sail on its waters.

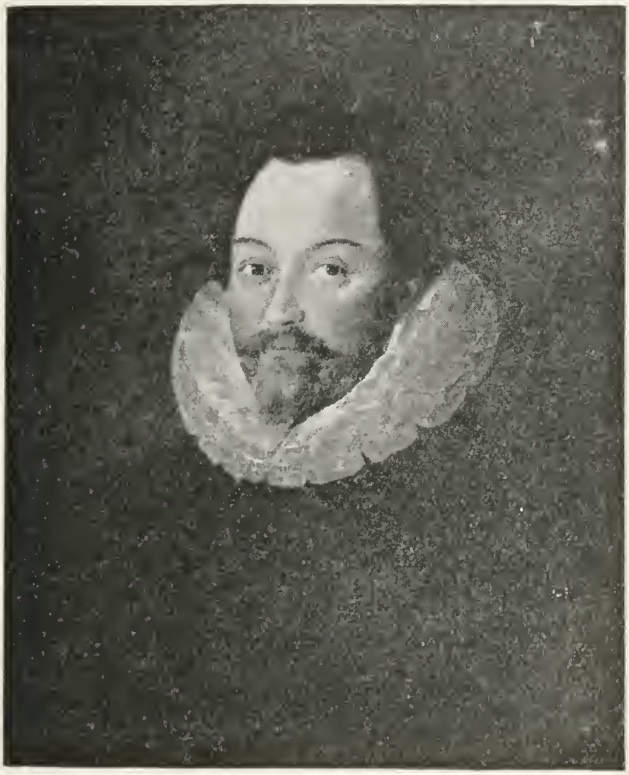
Nearly five years passed before this was fulfilled. In 1577 Drake started out in the *Pelican* with a small fleet of five ships. With these he sailed southward along the coast of South America. The voyage began badly, for the wind was against him for weeks, and some of his officers grumbled because they thought the journey too hard. Drake was forced at last to hang one of the captains for mutiny, although this officer was his great friend.

He changed the name of his ship, and called it the *Golden Hind.* With three ships he sailed through the straits of Magellan and entered the Pacific, where they were beaten about by a terrible storm for fifty days. One of the vessels went to the bottom and another returned to England, so that only the *Golden Hind* was left.

Drake continued his voyage up the west coast of America and captured a great Spanish treasure-ship. He sailed as far north as the island now called Vancouver, trying to find a way through to the Atlantic again. He gave up the attempt, and hearing that a Spanish fleet was waiting for him at the straits of

Magellan, he put into a harbour near where the city of San Francisco now stands.

After taking on board a good store of pro-



Sir Francis Drake

visions, he steered his way across the Pacific, for he had made up his mind to return by the way of the Cape of Good Hope. In the autumn

of 1580 he safely arrived in Plymouth harbour. Drake was now the hero of the nation, for not only had he brought home gold, silver, and jewels, but he was the first Englishman to sail round the world.

24. A TRIP TO AMERICA

When we go to the seaside, how we enjoy a trip in a yacht or steamer! We now propose to take a long voyage, so we must go to a large port. You have heard of London, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Southampton. These towns are all large ports, and we could start from any one of them.

Let us take the train to Liverpool. Here we should find vessels of all kinds. They are not built alike, because they are made so as to be best fitted for the cargoes they carry. Some are laden with grain, some with cattle, some with cotton, and others are crowded with people.

We will travel by a passenger-ship. As we make our way along the docks, we see wagons piled with luggage, and we also see a great number of men, women, and children. These are emigrants—people who are leaving their native land and seeking a new home in another country.

How beautiful our steamer looks! She is much longer than our school or playground, and what huge funnels she has! All her cargo is on board and most of her passengers, and she is ready to start, for the smoke is pouring out of the funnels.

A bell rings, and the passengers bid farewell to their friends, who now go ashore. Then a loud

The "Mauretania," an Atlantic liner

shriek from the steam-whistle tells us that we are about to start. Amidst the waving of handkerchiefs and the cheering of our friends we move from the landing-stage and begin our voyage.

The old sailing-vessels used to take three or four weeks to cross the Atlantic, but we hope to do so in about five days, as we are on board a very fast steamer.

We now look round the ship, which is to be our home for a few days. It is fitted with electric light, and the rooms are so comfortable that it is indeed a "floating palace." There are dining-saloons, drawing-rooms, smoking-rooms, and hundreds of cabins. But how strange the beds are! They look like shelves in a cupboard.

When we look out in the morning, no land is in sight, but in the distance we see some vessels passing. The captain can tell to what countries they belong by looking at the flags they fly. Sometimes he talks to other captains by flag signals or by wireless telegrams.

During the day we join in all kinds of games, and in the evening there are concerts and dances. Should the weather be foggy we go very slowly, and the officers keep a sharp look-out for icebergs. Icebergs are very beautiful, but we must not get near them, or our ship may be crushed to pieces.

On the fifth day there is more noise than usual on deck. Land is in sight, and in a few hours we arrive at the mouth of the river Hudson and slowly make our way to New York.

25. THE GREATEST CITY OF THE NEW WORLD

As we steam into the harbour, we find it crowded with ships of all nations, and all around are huge warehouses and offices. New York is not only the largest city in the United States, but it is the second largest city and port in the world.

No one would think that rather more than four hundred years ago this country was unknown to the people of the Old World.

The flag we see flying from that building is not the Union Jack, but the Stars and Stripes, the American flag; for although most of the people speak English, they are not under the English flag. They have a ruler called the President, who is chosen by the people every four years.

When we go on shore we find the streets very noisy, and crowded with people. Most of them are British, but we see many Germans, Frenchmen, and Italians, indeed we find people from almost every land. Everyone seems to be in a great hurry and rushing to catch the cars, which, strange to say, are rumbling along overhead. We find that steps from the streets lead up to the stations.

But perhaps a greater surprise to us is the great height of the houses. We can hardly count the rows of windows, for some of them are over thirty stories high, and unless we went in a lift we should be very tired before we reached the top floor. No wonder that these houses are called "sky-scrapers."

The newer part of New York, like most of the American cities, is divided into rectangles by a great number of streets and avenues. The streets are about eighty feet wide and crossed by avenues about twice as wide. This plan makes it easy to find our way, for the streets are numbered, instead of having names, and a street is known by its number east or west of Fifth Avenue, a great avenue running through the middle of the city.

New York is really three cities separated from each other by water, just as London is divided by the Thames. It is also like London in that thousands of people working there go by rail to their homes in the suburbs.

Now, although the boys and girls speak English, they do not say their words in quite the same way as we do, and so their talking sounds strange to us.

The children are clever, or "cute" as they say there, when they are speaking to grown-up

New York

people. Baseball and football are their favourite games, but they play them in a much rougher way than we do.

26. THE COTTON FIELDS OF AMERICA

Let us think for a moment about our clothing. We find that it is made mostly from cotton and wool. From an earlier chapter we know that much of the wool comes from Australia. But what is cotton? and from what country does it come?

Cotton is a soft downy substance, which grows in the seed-pod of a plant. Although we make more cotton goods than any other country, the climate of England is not suitable for growing the cotton plant.

It grows well in certain parts of America, India, China, and Egypt, so you see it only grows in hot countries. The plant is grown from seeds, which are sown in spring. The young shoots appear in about eight or ten days, and grow very rapidly.

We speak of it as a plant, but it is a good-sized bush or small tree, from six to twelve feet high. If you think of a field of tall currant bushes all planted in rows you will have some idea of a cotton field.

The cotton plant has large yellow flowers, and, when the blossom withers, a pod takes its place. This pod is called the "boll." The "boll" grows very quickly, and when ripe bursts open, and out comes the soft white down.

Cotton-picking

The best cotton comes from the south of the United States. Let us pay a visit to one of the fields at harvest-time. You would think that the bushes were covered with large white flowers, or little snowballs. An artist looking

across the field would say it was a picture in black and white, for he would see hundreds of black shining faces amongst the pure white cotton.

Men and women, boys and girls are all busy picking the cotton. They gather both the cotton and the seed and leave the empty husk. This work is done by negroes, because they can endure the great heat better than white people.

These black folk are busy, and their gay clothes look pretty among the white cotton. Years ago they were slaves, but now they are free. When their work is over for the day, these negroes will have a merry time, for they love to sing and dance to the music of the banjo.

After the cotton is picked, many things have to be done before we can wear it. It is first dried, then the seeds are removed. This is done by a machine called a "gin," which takes out the seeds and cleans the fibres. It is then packed into bales weighing about 400 lbs. and the bales are shipped off to other lands.

Most of the "raw cotton," as it is called, comes to Liverpool, the greatest cotton port in the world. In Lancashire there are thousands of cotton mills, and in these mills the raw

cotton is spun into threads. The cotton is made into calico, muslin, lace, and other goods, and although we use a large quantity of these things, ships laden with cotton goods are constantly sailing to other lands.

27. THE WEST INDIES AND ITS FRUIT

We are now going to visit the West Indies. You will remember that this name was given to these beautiful islands by Columbus, who thought he was off the coast of India. You will find the names on the map off the east coast of Central America.

These islands are near the Equator. It is very hot there, but not so hot as in the middle of Africa, because the sea being all round them makes them a little cooler. Even then they are much too hot to become a "white man's country."

Sometimes there are terrible hurricanes in these islands, and then the crops are almost destroyed. But what the people fear more than storms are earthquakes and volcanoes, for there are many active volcanoes in the West Indies. In 1902 one of these suddenly

burst forth and quite destroyed the chief city belonging to the French, and over 30,000 people lost their lives.

Jamaica is the largest and most important of the West Indian islands that belong to Britain, and owing to the Panama canal it is likely to be still more important. The soil is very fertile and the sugar-cane grows very well; indeed at one time hardly any other crop was grown. The work was done by negro slaves brought from Africa, but in 1834 all the slaves in those islands belonging to Britain were set free.

The sugar-planters then found it hard to get enough workers, for many of the blacks tilled a little patch of ground for themselves. Although there are still large sugar plantations, the banana plantations are now more important. A few years ago some steamers were specially built to carry fruit, and shiploads of bananas, pine-apples, oranges, and other fruits are now brought to us from the West Indies.

A banana plantation looks lovely when the fruit is ready to be picked. Banana trees grow to a height of nearly thirty feet, with large spreading leaves. The fruit grows in bunches nearly four feet long, and shines like gold in the bright sunshine.

You may perhaps have seen large bunches

A banana plantation, Jamaica

in shops, and you all know what nice fruit it is. In some countries it is the chief food of the people and takes the place that wheat holds with us.

The pine-apple also grows well there. Most of you have seen the cones that we get from the pine-tree in our woods. The pine-apple fruit grows somewhat like these cones, but is much larger and, instead of being woody, is a rich fruit. Many of you are fond of pine-apple chunks, or pieces of pine-apple that have been preserved and sent to us in tins. There are pine-apple factories and the people preserve pine-apples, just as we have jam factories here and preserve strawberries and other fruit.

Lime-juice and water is a favourite drink with us in the summer. Do you know that the lime-juice is got from a fruit, something like a lemon, that grows in the West Indies?

All boys and girls know what a cocoa-nut is like, and many of you like the nut, and perhaps the milk too; this, however, is somewhat sickly, but when the nut is freshly picked the milk is very cool and refreshing.

The cocoa we drink is also sent to us from the West Indies. The cocoa-nut palm grows only on sandy soil and reaches a height of one hundred feet, but the cacao, from which we get

cocoa, is an evergreen from fifteen to thirty feet high and grows in very rich soil. The fruit of the palm contains only one nut, but the fruit of the evergreen is a pod containing about fifty small nuts or seeds from which the cocoa we drink is made.

The soil is so fertile that all these fruits and many others grow with very little attention, and as the negro can get all the food he requires with so little work he is often somewhat lazy

28. THE SUGAR-CANE

In our last lesson we read about the fruit sent to us from the West Indies. Now although we should not like to be without these fruits, we should like still less to be without sugar, for we use it so much in cooking our foods and in making sweets.

You all know that sugar is a sweet substance, but perhaps you do not know that we can get it from the juice of many plants. The plants from which we get the most sugar are the sugar-cane, the maple tree, and the beetroot.

The sugar-cane is a kind of grass that will only grow in very hot countries, such as the West Indies and Central America. The maple is a large tree that grows in the forests of

Canada, and the beetroot is a vegetable with a large fleshy root chiefly grown in France, Germany, and Holland.

In this lesson we shall see how sugar is obtained from the sugar-cane, as this kind is usually the best. Perhaps you may have seen a field of Indian corn on an English farm. The sugar-cane is something like Indian corn to look at, and will only grow in very rich soil.

The jointed stem grows as high as twelve or fourteen feet, and is about one and a half inches thick. It has long ribbon-shaped leaves from four to five feet long. The canes are grown from young cuttings planted about three feet apart, and a plantation lasts from six to ten years.

When the canes are ripe, they are cut down and taken to a mill to be crushed. This is done by passing them between large rollers which squeeze out all the juice. To prevent the juice from going bad, some lime is added, and then it is boiled until the sugar forms crystals. The liquid part is drained away and called treacle, and the crystals that remain are brown or raw sugar.

It is usually sent to England in this form, where much of it is changed to white sugar. This is done in large factories by dissolving the sugar in water, then straining the liquid and

Cutting sugar-cane

filtering it through bone charcoal. When it dries it is quite white and forms again into crystals. If it is placed in moulds it is called lump or loaf sugar.

You will remember that it is grown very largely in the West Indies, so you will know that the people who work on the sugar plantations are mostly negroes. You may sometimes see all the members of a black family in a sugar field. The father and mother and the elder children are all hard at work cutting down the canes, while the younger children are sucking away at pieces of the sweet cane.

29 THE RUBBER PLANT

Little children, big children, and grown-up people too, are all fond of playing ball. The pretty coloured ball which children love so much, the inside of a football, those funny-looking dolls, that may be squeezed and dropped on the floor and yet not break, are all made from rubber.

Have you ever thought where rubber comes from, and what it is? Some of you will say at once that it comes from India, because it is called india-rubber, but you would be wrong, for most of it comes from other countries.

Collecting sap from rubber trees

Some of you may guess that it comes from a tree, because you have a plant at home that is called an india-rubber plant. You would be quite right, but your plant is only a small tree. In some parts of South America and Africa you would find the same kind of tree, but it is from thirty to fifty feet high when it is full grown.

You would not guess how we get the rubber, for it is not a fruit like the apple or acorn, nor the bark like cork, but the sap of the tree. The rubber tree only grows to its full size in very hot countries, where it is much too hot for white people to do hard work, so we find that the natives are employed in the rubber forests or plantations.

If you look at the picture you will see how the natives get the sap. Let us follow one of them as he goes through the plantation. He picks out a tree in which there is plenty of sap, and with a small axe makes a deep cut across the trunk, right through the bark, and an inch or more into the wood.

He then takes a small cup of burnt clay, with one side rather flattened, and putting a small piece of clay on the flat side, presses it against the trunk beneath the cut. A milky white gummy juice very slowly oozes out and falls into the cup.

At a distance of about five inches, but at

the same height, he makes another cut and places a cup beneath. He does this until there is a row of cups right round the tree, and so he goes on from tree to tree. On the following day he will go round again, making cuts in the trees, and placing cups beneath, but the cuts will be about six or eight inches lower down the trunk.

Only two or three ounces trickle out in a day, so it takes some time to fill the cups. When quite full they are taken away, or the contents emptied into a large vessel. The juice, which is like thick cream, is now made into a solid. This is sometimes done by leaving it to the heat of the sun, but the usual way is to pour the juice over large pieces of clay to which it sticks like glue.

It is then placed over a fire of wood and palm-nuts. The heat slowly dries and hardens the juice, and the smoke changes it from milky white to a dark brown colour. The clay is softened with water, and washed away, leaving behind a solid piece of india-rubber.

We do not use it in this form for rubbing out pencil-marks or making balls. It is sent to England and other countries, where it is boiled, and rolled, and washed. It is then ready to be made into balls, tyres, and other useful things.

30. CAPTAIN COOK IN THE SOUTH SEAS

We are now going to read of a great sailor, who went on long voyages and discovered many lands in the Southern Seas. From very old maps we find that the Portuguese knew something of Australia; and as it was at first called New Holland, it is quite clear that the Dutch had also been there. Captain Cook, however, was the first Englishman to tell us of the wonders of this and other lands in the Southern Seas.

James Cook was born in Yorkshire, and as he lived near the sea, he heard many wonderful stories of distant lands, and his great desire was to become a sailor.

He spent some years on coaling-vessels, and when sailors were wanted to fight against the French in America, Cook offered to go. His conduct was so good, and he knew so well how to manage a vessel, that he quickly won promotion, and was made master of a ship. He helped to win Canada for Britain, but he is more famous for the reports he gave us of new lands in the Pacific ocean.

His first voyage was in 1768, when he had charge of the *Endeavour*. After sailing round Cape Horn, he entered the Pacific ocean and steered to Tahiti. On this lovely island, he

Captain Cook

found plenty of tropical fruit, strange flowers, and beautiful trees. He treated the natives so kindly that they became quite friendly and were sorry when Cook sailed away to explore New Zealand. He sailed round the coasts, and thus proved that they were islands and not part of a great continent.

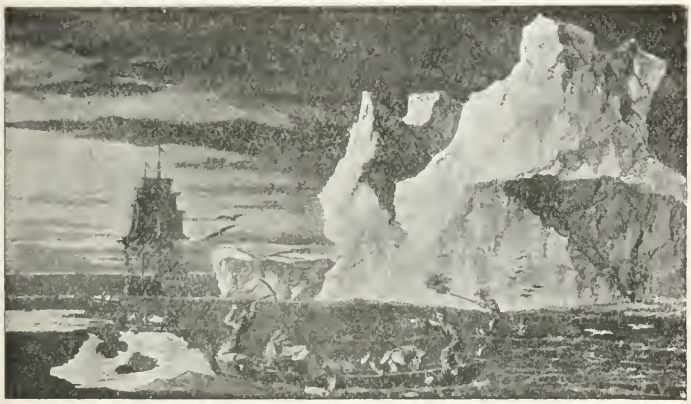
Captain Cook continued his voyage westward to New Holland, and anchored at a place where he found so many strange and beautiful plants that he called it Botany Bay.

The natives were not at all friendly and threw stones and wooden clubs or boomerangs at the white men. He landed, however, and named that part New South Wales, and took possession of it in the name of King George III. He then sailed north and found a fine harbour, which he called Port Jackson, on the shores of which now stands the great town of Sydney.

The sailors of those days often saw strange things, but they were greatly surprised to see animals carrying their young in a pouch in front of them, and taking very big jumps as they moved along.

The journey along this coast was very dangerous on account of the coral reefs, and on one occasion the explorers were nearly wrecked, but they arrived home safely after a voyage of three years.

On his second voyage Cook tried to find the South Pole. He steered southward for many miles, and was often stopped by thick fogs and blinding snowstorms. After passing a great many icebergs, he at length found his way blocked by a great wall of ice and so he was forced to return.



Captain Cook among the icebergs

In 1776 Captain Cook sailed from Plymouth on his third and last voyage, for he was killed by the natives of the Sandwich Islands, although they had been quite friendly when he visited them the year before.

His name and work, however, will always be remembered, for he was the first to tell us of the great countries of Australia and New

Zealand, where so many Britons have since found a new home.

31. LIVINGSTONE IN AFRICA

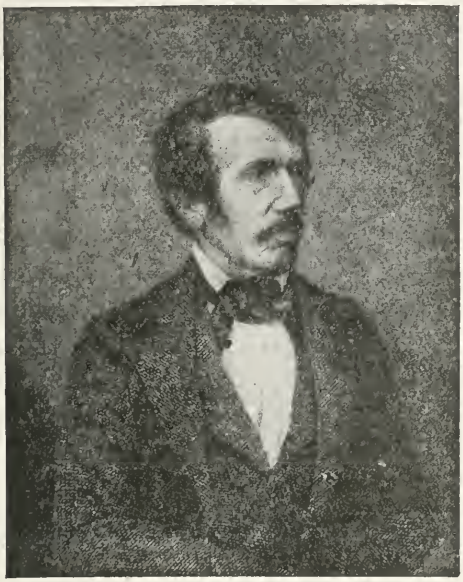
Fifty years ago Africa was called the Dark Continent, because so little was known of it. We are now going to read about a great traveller who lived there more than thirty years.

David Livingstone is often spoken of as the greatest and noblest of travellers, because his real desire was not so much to explore the country as to teach the people of that heathen land, and to try to stop the dreadful slave trade.

He was a poor Scottish boy, and, after a short time at school, went to work at a cotton mill in Glasgow at the early age of ten. When quite young he made up his mind to go to heathen lands, so he attended classes to study medicine that he might go out as a medical missionary.

Dr Livingstone was sent out to South Africa. He worked hard to learn the language of the natives and visited them in their villages. His kindly manner won their hearts. They listened to him when he tried to teach them how to lead better lives, and they went to him whenever they were in trouble.

More than once he risked his life to help his African friends, and many stories are told of the narrow escapes he had from death. At one time some lions had greatly troubled the natives by carrying off some of their cattle, so



David Livingstone

Livingstone went with the men to kill the robbers.

They found the lions, and Livingstone shot at one, but only wounded it; whilst he was reloading his gun, the savage beast sprang on him and, seizing him by the shoulder, shook

him as a dog shakes a rat. His friends came to his help, and the lion left him and attacked them, badly hurting two of them before it fell dead. It was then found that Livingstone had been bitten on the arm and that his shoulder-bone was broken.

After spending nine years in South Africa, he went northward. Here, again, his kindly manner and his great power of winning the goodwill of the natives enabled him to pass through places where no white man had ever been. He went for hundreds of miles along the valley of the Zambesi, and discovered the largest waterfall in the world, which he named the Victoria Falls.

Livingstone twice came home to England for a rest, as the climate of that part of Africa is very hot and unsuitable for white people. Before this time the middle of Africa was almost unknown, and the map was a blank. People thought it was one great desert, but Livingstone wrote an account of the mighty rivers, great lakes, and wonderful plants that he had seen, and drew maps of the country he had explored.

He went back to Africa a third time, and found new rivers and explored the region round the great lakes. For about four years nothing was heard of Livingstone, and Stanley,

The Victoria Falls

another great African explorer, was sent to look for him. He found Livingstone, who had been ill and was still very feeble.

The great missionary was much cheered to see the face of a white man again, but refused to return with Stanley, as he had still much work to do and had made up his mind to spend the rest of his life in Africa.

He started on a new journey, but became ill again, and died at a little village on the southern shore of lake Bangweolo. His body was carried to the east coast by his faithful servants, and then brought to England and buried in Westminster Abbey.

32. THE SEA AND ITS WONDERS.
I. SPONGE

What is a sponge? All boys and girls know what a sponge is like, and perhaps use a piece every day, but yet may not be able to answer that question. Many grown-up people would not be quite sure. For a very long time it was not known whether the sponge was a plant or an animal.

It is much like a plant in the way it grows and in its shape. It grows at the bottom of the sea and is always found on a rock, to which it clings by a kind of root, and remains there

Sponge-diving in the Pacific Ocean

unless it is torn off. Most people thought it was a kind of seaweed.

Now, however, people who study the wonders of the sea, and have carefully watched the sponge, tell us that it is an animal. It is, of course, one of the lowest forms of animal life. As you see, the life of a sponge is very simple. It does not move from place to place, but remains fixed to some rock under the water.

A sponge, as we know it, is only the skeleton or framework of the animal. When alive it is covered with a jelly-like matter, which is really the living sponge. Now you wonder how it lives; well, it has many mouths. If you could watch a sponge, you would find that water is drawn in through the smaller pores, passes through the body, and is driven out again at the larger openings. As the water passes through, the sponge gathers very small animals and plants, on which it feeds.

Sometimes little points may be seen sticking to the framework of the sponge. These are the young sponges, and when old enough they are carried away by the water. They swim about for a little while, but soon become fixed to something hard, and by and by grow larger.

Sponges grow in all kinds of shapes and colours. Some are round like a ball, some hollow like saucers, and others like twigs of a

tree. The sponges we use are mostly obtained from the Mediterranean Sea and the West Indies. The finest are found near Turkey; those from the West Indies are rather large and coarse.

Now you will want to know how men get the sponges. When the water is not deep, they are torn from the rocks by a kind of fork on a long pole. This cannot be done where the water is deep, so men are trained to dive for sponges and to remain under water as long as possible.

The divers go out in boats and are let down by ropes, with a heavy stone at the end to make them sink quickly. When a diver reaches the bottom, he tears off as many sponges as he can and places them under his arms. He then pulls the cord as a signal to the men in the boat to pull him up.

The divers sometimes wear diving-dresses, and they are then able to remain down for some hours; but those without such dresses can only stay under the water for two or three minutes.

When the sponge is brought out of the water, it is dried in the sun, and then buried in the sand. The jelly part soon decays. Then the skeleton part is washed, dried, and bleached in the sun and is ready for use.

33. THE SEA AND ITS WONDERS.
II. PEARLS

Perhaps some girls who read this book have a workbox with a pretty border of small silvery-looking pieces called mother-of-pearl. These little pieces are from the inside shell of certain kinds of oysters. You all know that the oyster is a shell-fish found in certain parts of Britain. This kind is only used for food, and we do not expect to find pearls in the shells, although a few have been found.

The fish from which we get the pearl and the best shell is only found in very warm waters, and is called the pearl oyster. The outside of the shell is of a greenish colour, and the inside has a thick smooth lining which is called mother-of-pearl.

You may wonder how the pearl comes to be inside the oyster. For a long time it was not known, but people who have studied the life of these shell-fish tell us that it is due to a small grain of sand getting inside the shell.

This small grain greatly worries the oyster, whose body is very tender. It does not like anything tickling or scratching it, and as it cannot turn the grain of sand out, the oyster covers it with several layers of a milky juice. In this way the pearl is formed, and in time it

A pearl oyster seen; manœuvring the canoe

The dive

The oyster secured

becomes quite hard and is then a very beautiful gem.

Pearl oysters are found in many warm seas, and as they are generally at a depth of sixty to seventy feet, men have to dive for them. The pictures show you divers at work in the Red Sea, one staying in the canoe while the other plunges down for the oyster.

The best known pearl-fishery is off the coast of Ceylon, where the divers are trained to their work from childhood; trained to hold their breath under water, and to stand the pressure of water at such a great depth. Where ten divers go to a boat, five go down, while the other five are resting. The divers stand in a row along one side of the boat, and each has hold of a rope, to the end of which is fastened a large stone weighing about forty pounds.

The diver places his foot in a loop like a stirrup on the upper side of the stone, and soon sinks to the bottom. He gathers the oysters as quickly as he can, and puts them into a basket or bag. He can only stay down about a minute, then he pulls the rope and the men in the boat pull him up and help him into the boat, and another diver goes down.

At the end of the day, or earlier, if the boat is full, the oysters are carried to the shore and

there laid in piles till they rot away. After a few days the shells are washed and closely examined. The pearls are found loose or fixed to the inside of the shell. A sharp look-out is kept for the loose pearls, as these are the most valuable. The pearls are sorted and put together according to their size and colour; the large round pearls are set in rings or strung together and made into necklaces.

The inside lining of the shell is cut out, for this lining is the beautiful mother-of-pearl, so much used to make pretty things, such as lids of boxes or handles of knives.

34. LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

In some parts of England the coast is almost level, and the waves run gently over the smooth sand. In other places we find huge masses of rock round which the waves roar, and perhaps a mile or so out at sea large rocks may be seen just above the waves in clear weather, but they are quite hidden when it is stormy.

These rocky parts of our coast are very dangerous, and have been the cause of many shipwrecks and much loss of life. Ships keep

on their way when it is dark, and at various places round our coast lighthouses have been built to warn sailors of rocks. The vessels also carry lights so that they may not run into one another.

From very early times lights of some kind have been used to warn sailors of danger. The first lights were huge bonfires on headlands on various parts of our coast. Then large towers were built with grates at the top, on which fires were lighted. The ruins of a lighthouse built by the Romans may be seen at Dover.

There are hundreds of lighthouses round our coast at the present time. They are usually of the same shape as the trunk of a tree, being broader at the base than the top, and are made of stone. Perhaps you may have stayed at a place where there is a lighthouse, and have gone over it with your father. You entered by a small door, and then went up a staircase leading to the lantern. How beautifully clean everything was, and how brightly polished you found the lamp and all its parts, and how well the wicks were trimmed! Indeed, everything was done so that the best light might be shown.

Some lighthouses are built on lonely rocks, far out at sea, others on bold headlands where there is no shelter in times of storm, whilst

others are placed at the entrance to harbours, where ships may seek refuge in stormy weather.

Sometimes, however, a very bright light is shown from the top-mast of a ship. Vessels of this kind are called lightships and are moored

Eddystone Lighthouse

in places where lighthouses could not be built, that is, where there are sands. The sailor dreads the danger of running his vessel on a sandbank almost as much as running on the rocks.

Now, with all these hundreds of lights round our coast, how can the sailor tell whether the light warns him of danger or leads him to safety? Well, the lighthouses and lightships all vary, either in the colour of the light or in the way in which it shines. Some give a clear white light, some red, and some green. Some have fixed lights and shine only one way, while others revolve. Then again, other lights flash out for a moment, and then all is dark for a certain time.

The captain of a ship has a book which tells him all about the lighthouses and lightships, and by carefully watching the light he can tell where he is and where to steer his vessel.

The most famous lighthouse in British seas is the Eddystone Lighthouse, which is on a reef of rocks in the English Channel to the south-west of Plymouth. This is the fourth lighthouse that has been built on these rocks. The first lighthouse was destroyed by a storm and the second was burnt.

35. SEARCHING FOR GOLD

Gold is the most precious of metals and has always been greatly valued for its beauty. It is because of its value and bright yellow colour that it is made into ornaments. It was used for this

The Great Boulder Gold Mine
(*Western Australia*)

purpose thousands of years ago, for ornaments made of gold have been found in some of the old tombs in Egypt. We also read that it was greatly used by king Solomon in building the temple and his palace, but we are not quite sure where the gold was then found.

After the discovery of America gold was brought to Spain from Mexico, and you will remember that Drake and other English sailors often captured the Spanish ships on their way home.

During the last hundred years several goldfields have been discovered. If you look at the map of North America you will see two countries where gold was found, California and Klondike.

In 1848 gold was discovered in California. Thousands of men, not only from Britain, but from all parts of the world, were seized with the gold fever, gave up their work, and went out to California in the hope of making their fortunes in the goldfields.

The gold was found in small grains in the sands along the beds of the rivers. It was obtained by washing the sands in sieves. Gold is heavier than sand, so the water washes away the sand and leaves the gold.

Although most of the gold-seekers were honest, hardworking men, there were some rogues and thieves among them. It was no uncommon thing for a man who had worked hard for months, and was looking forward to returning home with his bag of gold dust, to have it stolen. Everyone had to be prepared to defend both himself and his gold, for the

police were too few to keep order, and many a successful gold-seeker lost his life.

In 1851, a miner named Hargraves, who had been successful in California, settled in New South Wales. He noticed that some of the hills looked very much like those of California, so he searched for some time and at last found some grains of gold.

As soon as the news became known, there was a "rush" for the new goldfields. Farmers left their sheep, sailors their ships, clerks their offices, and people from all over the world flocked to the diggings.

Sometimes the gold was found near the surface, but more often it was a few feet below in a bed of sand. It was mostly obtained in the same way as in California by washing the sand, but sometimes a nugget was found. The largest was called the "Welcome Stranger," and was valued at £9,000.

After the gold fever had died down, many of the British did not return home, but settled in Australia and became successful farmers.

Rich goldfields have been discovered since in other parts of Australia, but there has never been such a "rush" as that of 1851.

South Africa is now perhaps the greatest gold-mining country in the world. Anyone who has been down a coal mine will have a

good idea of gold-mining in the Transvaal. There are the engine, the shaft, and passages leading out from the shaft, and the miners digging out the gold ore, just as our miners dig out the coal, but of course everything is much cleaner. The ore is taken to the surface and crushed to powder in great mills, and the gold is obtained from the powder by a special method.

The latest goldfield discovered was in the valley of the Klondike river. It is a land of ice and snow, and the miners find it very hard work to obtain the gold, as the ground is frozen for the greater part of the year.

36. DIAMOND MINES

You all know that a diamond is a very valuable gem, but do you know that it is the hardest substance we have, and that nothing but a diamond can cut or scratch a diamond?

It is greatly prized for its beauty, and is very costly, but that is because it is so rare and there are so few places where it is found.

The chief diamond field of to-day is in South Africa, and Kimberley is sometimes called the "diamond capital" of the world. The first diamond was found there in 1867 and sold for

Diamond mines, South Africa

£500. After a careful search other diamonds were found, and men who knew a great deal about rocks said that there were many more of these gems in the district where Kimberley is now built.

At first the diamonds were found in the yellow clay near the surface, and the gems were obtained from open workings. There are now great pits at Kimberley, for the diamonds are found in the hard blue clay which is much deeper.

The workings are very like those in a coal mine, and the "blue ground" is reached by means of shafts and long underground passages. The clay is dug out, brought to the surface, spread on large open spaces called "floors," and then left to the action of the sun and air.

Have you noticed in the garden how pieces of stiff clay crumble away if left for some time? When the blue clay crumbles it is passed through some wonderful machinery, in which water is always running, and by this means the diamonds are separated from the earth.

Much of the hard work in the mines is done by natives. They agree to work for a certain time, perhaps three or six months, and during that time they live in "compounds." These "compounds" are large native villages surrounded by high walls, and the men are

not allowed to leave the village except for work.

Every evening before returning home the natives are searched. Their clothes, their hair, their mouths, their arms, their toes, and even their ears are carefully examined. This is done to prevent them from stealing the precious stones.

37. "BLACK DIAMONDS"

We have been reading about gold and diamonds being found in other countries. Now, although we do not find precious metals or precious stones in Britain, we have some useful minerals which are worth more to us than either gold or diamonds.

Coal and iron are the most useful minerals, and we are most fortunate in having large supplies of them of the best quality. It is said that England owes its greatness and its riches to coal and iron.

We are quite sure, however, that it is largely because of our manufactures that we are the first nation of the world to-day. It is also true that hardly any manufacture could be carried on without machinery, and machinery is made from iron.

Again, our machinery would be of little use but for coal. We need coal to turn the water into steam, to work our engines, and so drive our machinery.

Indeed we do not know what we should do without coal. It is by far the most important of all the minerals found in Britain, and because it is so valuable to us, coal is often called "Black Diamonds."

There are many parts of Britain where coal is found, but that from South Wales is the best in the world. Welsh coal is hard, burns with little smoke, and, as it gives out great heat, is largely used for steamships and war-vessels.

The coal is found in "beds" or "seams," which are often deep down in the earth. In one part they even run out under the sea.

A coal mine is a very interesting place, although the country round is not very pretty. Let us pay a visit to a famous coalfield in the middle of England. It is called the "Black Country," a name which is quite true, for we shall see great heaps of coal, huge mounds of rubbish, thick clouds of smoke pouring out from the tall chimneys all around, and everything black and grimy.

Now let us go to the shaft, or hole, which has been dug to reach the coal. At the top is an engine which draws the cages or wagons up

Coal-mining

and down the shaft. We step into one of the cages and are let down by means of ropes. At last we stop, and see passages running in all directions, like the streets of a town. Everywhere is dark except for the glimmer of the small lanterns carried by the miners.

We walk along the passages and watch the men digging out the coal. They cannot stand upright at their work, but have to stoop. In some places the men are kneeling, in others, lying on their backs or on one side to dig out the coal.

The coal is put into little wagons and drawn by ponies to the shaft where it is taken to the top. The ponies that do this work live in the mines, and many of them have never been outside. They are often quite blind through living in the dark.

It seems quite bright on our return to the open air, after spending a few hours in the darkness of the mine. We have seen for ourselves that the miners have to work very hard, and that they also have to face many dangers.

38. GLACIERS AND ICEBERGS

We have read of some countries in the far north which are so cold that we call them lands of ice and snow. You will remember what fun the little Dutch boys and girls have in winter, and how our Canadian cousins look forward to that season.

In our country we get very little ice and snow, but we like to look forward to January as a time when we may expect some. How delighted we are when we see the soft flakes of snow falling to the ground, and how we enjoy snowballing! Then perhaps the ponds and even the rivers are frozen quite hard. What fun we have sliding or skating over the smooth ice! We feel quite sad when a few days later the thaw comes, and the ice and snow disappear.

On the tops of very high mountains snow lies all the year round, and so much falls that it lies piled to a great depth. Then it begins to move slowly down the hollows of the mountain. It only moves a few inches each day, but its great weight squeezes the snow so closely together that in time it becomes a river of solid ice. You know that if you take a snowball and squeeze it for some time it

The Rhone Glacier, Switzerland

becomes very hard and more like ice than snow.

This river of ice is called a glacier. It moves slowly down towards the foot of the mountain, and at last it reaches a part where the heat of the sun is great enough to melt the ice, and it then becomes a river.

In the polar regions the sun is not strong

An iceberg, off Greenland

enough to melt the glaciers, and these ice rivers move slowly down to the sea. When a glacier reaches the sea, the waves break off large masses, which float away.

These ice-mountains are called icebergs, and drift on the ocean till they reach warmer water and then slowly melt. Some icebergs are higher than the highest church steeple and are several miles round. The part above

the water, however, seems quite small, when we know that the part below is about ten times larger than that above.

As these huge ice-mountains get into warmer waters, the ice below slowly melts, so that the iceberg becomes top-heavy and "turns turtle." Should a ship be near, it is smashed to pieces, so a sharp look-out is always kept for icebergs in those parts where they are likely to be found.

Vessels crossing to North America are often in danger of running against icebergs, which are very common in spring. The captains usually take a course farther south at this season to avoid them, and special care is taken in foggy weather. The speed of the vessel is reduced, and the temperature of the water is taken many times, for when an iceberg is near a ship the water becomes much colder.

When this happens, the engines are stopped and a sharp look-out is kept on all sides to sight the iceberg, for should it run into the ship, the ship would most likely sink. The most terrible accident of this kind happened on 14 April, 1912, when the *Titanic*, the largest steamer of the day, was sunk through striking an iceberg, and nearly fifteen hundred people lost their lives.

39. THE FAR NORTH

In this book we have read about people in far-off lands. How do we know so much about these people? Well, it is because Britons have always been fond of the sea and ever ready to seek and explore unknown lands. There is hardly any part of the world that our people have not tried to explore.

We are now going to read about some of the men who have tried to find the North Pole and the South Pole. Hudson Bay, a large opening in the north of Canada, is named after a brave sailor who made four voyages to the Arctic Ocean. He was the first Englishman who tried to find the North Pole.

Since then many men of various nations have tried to discover the North Pole, and many of them have lost their lives in the attempt. This has always been hard and dangerous work, for the polar seas are full of icebergs and huge masses of ice. In our last chapter we read of a great ship sinking through striking an iceberg. These are not the only dangers, for the ships are often frozen in the ice, and the explorers are sometimes starved or frozen to death.

A few years ago an attempt was made to

get to the North Pole by balloon, but the three men who started have not since been seen. An attempt was also made by airship, but this was not successful.

The usual plan has been to sail along the coast of Greenland until stopped by the ice, to spend the winter there, and in the following summer to go forward on sledges. The natives of Greenland are called Eskimos, and live in much the same way as the Lapps. They have some fine dogs, which are used for drawing sledges over the ice and snow. Our Arctic explorers have found the Eskimos and their dogs very useful.

The two men who have been the most successful are Dr Nansen, a Norwegian, and Commander Peary, an American. Dr Nansen got within two hundred and fifty miles of the North Pole, and then had to give up because the ice was moving south.

Commander Peary has spent the greater part of his life in exploring the Arctic Regions. In 1908 he started out in the *Roosevelt* to make one more effort to reach the North Pole. On 1 March, 1909, he left the ship, and with a few friends, some Eskimos, and dogs for the sledges he set out for the Pole.

At the end of a month he sent back Captain Bartlett, the last of his white friends.

With a negro servant and four Eskimos he hurried forward, and on 6 April, 1909, reached the North Pole. They built a snow shelter, and stayed for about thirty hours, taking photographs and making observations, and after hoisting the American flag began their homeward journey.

Eskimo sledges on the ice

40. THE SOUTH POLE

At the North Pole is a sea surrounded by land, whilst at the South Pole is land surrounded by sea. The hardy Eskimos live in Greenland, but no people have been found

in the lands farthest south. Again, in the frozen north there are plenty of animals, but in the frozen south there are few animals, so that the journey to the South Pole is even more difficult than that to the North Pole, and fewer attempts have been made to reach it.

You will remember that Captain Cook was the first man who tried to get there. Nearly seventy years later Sir James Ross found a great barrier of frozen land, which he called Victoria Land.

The best known of later explorers are Captain Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and Captain Amundsen. In 1909 Sir Ernest Shackleton got within ninety-seven miles of the South Pole and, like Nansen when near the North Pole, was forced to turn back, as the food was running short.

In 1910 Captain Scott, who had once before made a journey to the Far South, set out again for that region, and Captain Amundsen started shortly afterwards.

The English party was greatly surprised to meet the Norwegians in the Polar seas, and it was quite clear that it was to be a race to the South Pole. Captain Scott was going over the Shackleton route, but Amundsen thought of taking a shorter way over unknown ground.

The greatest difficulty in Polar expeditions

Relics of Captain Scott's Expedition

(*The sleeping-tent used by the northern party is seen in the centre; the sledge is on the left. The two sailors were with both the* Terra Nova *and* Discovery *expeditions.*)

has always been the supply of food. Both commanders arranged stations a certain distance from each other along the route, and also gave orders for food to be brought from one station to another.

These carefully made plans led to their success, for on 14 December, 1911, Amundsen and five of his fellow-countrymen planted the Norwegian flag at the South Pole.

Owing to the loss of ponies and the weather being much more severe on the route chosen by Scott, he and his four companions did not reach there till five weeks later. We can imagine how disappointed they were to find that they had been beaten.

The weather was even more severe on the return journey, and one man had a serious accident and died. The others pushed forward as quickly as they could, but when only eleven miles from the "One Ton Camp" a terrible blizzard came on. This lasted at least nine days; and at the end of that time their food and fuel gave out and the four brave men died.

Captain Scott, who was the last to die, left an account of his journey and doings, which you must read when you are older. Not only his fellow-countrymen but the people of other nations deeply mourned the loss of this brave man and his noble comrades, whose names are added to the long roll of British heroes.

EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1.

1. Give the names of the common wild flowers found in the park or the forest in your district.

2. Sketch a primrose, a buttercup, a dandelion, a wild rose, an acorn, an ear of wheat, oats, and barley.

CHAPTER 2.

1. How many miles is your home from London?

2. How can you tell, roughly, what the railway fare is from one place to another?

3. Name some of the largest buildings in London, and say which you would most like to visit, and why.

CHAPTER 3.

1. Give a short account of what may be seen from London Bridge.

2. Write an account of a day at the "Zoo."

CHAPTER 4.

1. What is the "All Red Route," and what countries should we visit?

2. Sketch the national flags: St George, St Andrew, St Patrick, and the Union Jack.

CHAPTER 5.

1. What articles of food do we receive from Canada?

2. When do our Canadian cousins have their holidays, and how do they spend them?

CHAPTER 6.

1. If you know the position of Britain on the globe, how can you find Australia?

2. Write an account of life on a "sheep run," and of what the farmers send us.

CHAPTER 7.

1. Describe an ostrich farm, and make a sketch or paper-cutting of an ostrich, and also of one of its long feathers.

2. Measure the distance from the Equator to Britain, and to South Africa, and say what you can about the weather of those countries.

CHAPTER 8.

1. Describe the Durbar at Delhi.

2. Why would you rather live in Britain than in India?

CHAPTER 9.

1. Describe the jungle of India.

2. Why is the elephant the most important animal in India?

CHAPTER 10.

1. From your map find out the distance from (*a*) Newhaven to Dieppe, (*b*) Dover to Calais, (*c*) London to Paris.

2. Write an account of the differences between the life of a French child and your own.

CHAPTER 11.

1. In what ways are London and Paris alike?

2. Write an account of a visit to Paris.

CHAPTER 12.

1. Why are there so many windmills in Holland, and which part of England would give you a good idea of that country?

2. Make a sketch showing Dutch boys and girls at play.

CHAPTER 13.

1. Where is the "Land of the Midnight Sun"? Why has it this name?

2. Cut out in paper: a reindeer, a sledge, and a fir tree.

CHAPTER 14.

1. Look at the globe and note the position of Britain, Italy, the Equator, and say why Italy is warmer than Britain.

2. Name any fruits that grow well in the open air in Italy, and illustrate by sketches.

CHAPTER 15.

1. Why do people from all parts of the world visit Rome?

2. Name any famous buildings to be seen there.

CHAPTER 16.

1. To what famous place do people usually go when they visit Naples?

2. Write an account of the destruction of Pompeii.

CHAPTER 17.

1. What English shrub is like the orange tree?

2. Write an account of the Spanish people and make a sketch of a Spaniard in holiday dress.

CHAPTER 18.

1. Why is the soil of Egypt so very fertile, although so little rain falls there?

2. Describe a voyage up the Nile and a visit to Khartum.

3. Write an account of the Pyramids, and illustrate by plasticine models or sketches.

CHAPTER 19.

1. Write an account of the Chinese customs and sights which would seem strange to us.

2. Make sketches of Chinese man and woman, wheelbarrow, junk, a bird fishing.

CHAPTER 20.

1. In what way is Japan like the British Isles?

2. Of what materials are Japanese houses usually built? Why?

3. What is a jinricksha? Illustrate by a sketch.

CHAPTER 21.

1. Write an account of the life of a little Japanese.

2. Describe the "Feasts" that the children so much enjoy.

3. Give sketches of their toys, of a lantern, and of a fish flag.

CHAPTER 22.

1. Who was Christopher Columbus?

2. Write an account of his famous voyage.

3. From the scale find out how many miles it is from Spain to the West Indies.

CHAPTER 23.

1. Why is Drake so well remembered?

2. Write an account of his greatest voyage.

CHAPTER 24.

1. What are emigrants? At what large ports should we find them?

2. How do the captains talk to each other (*a*) 500 yards away? (*b*) 500 miles away?

CHAPTER 25.

1. How far is it from Liverpool to New York?

2. What is the national flag of America called? Make a sketch of it.

CHAPTER 26.

1. Of what materials are our clothes chiefly made (*a*) in summer? (*b*) in winter? Whence do these materials come?

2. Suppose you are a piece of calico; write the story of your life from the time you were a seed.

CHAPTER 27.

1. Where are the West Indies? Find the distance from London.

2. Name the fruits we get from the West Indies and give sketches or illustrate with plasticine models.

CHAPTER 28.

1. Name the plants from which we obtain sugar, and the countries where they are found.

2. Suppose you are a lump of sugar, write the story of your life from the time you were a small piece of sugar-cane.

CHAPTER 29.

1. From what countries do we obtain rubber?

2. Name any articles made from rubber and illustrate by sketches or plasticine models.

CHAPTER 30.

1. Who were the first people to visit Australia? How do we know this?

2. How was it that James Cook became a sailor and so quickly won promotion?

CHAPTER 31.

1. Why was Africa called the "Dark Continent"?

2. What part of it did David Livingstone explore?

3. How was it that he was so greatly loved by the natives?

CHAPTER 32.

1. What is a sponge?

2. Make a sketch of a diver collecting sponges.

CHAPTER 33.

1. What is mother-of-pearl?

2. How is the valuable pearl formed which is set in ladies' rings?

3. Write an account of a day with the pearl divers.

CHAPTER 34.

1. What is the difference between a lighthouse and a lightship? Illustrate with paper cuttings or plasticine.

2. Which is the most famous lighthouse in Britain? Name any others you have seen or heard about.

CHAPTER 35.

1. Why is gold so greatly used for ornaments?

2. Name the great goldfields of the world and find their position on the globe or atlas.

CHAPTER 36.

1. Where is the chief diamond field?

2. How are the diamonds obtained? Why are they so costly?

CHAPTER 37.

1. What are the most useful minerals?

2. Where is the "Black Country" and why is it so called?

3. Make sketches of a Davy lamp, cage, pony drawing wagons.

CHAPTER 38.

1. Where are glaciers and icebergs common?

2. Why are icebergs so dangerous? How do captains try to avoid them?

3. Give a sketch of an iceberg showing the part above the water and the part below.

CHAPTER 39.

1. How is it that we know so much about the people in far-off lands?

2. Give the names of some of the explorers who have tried to find the North Pole.

3. Cut out in paper or plasticine: Eskimos, sledges, dogs.

CHAPTER 40.

1. What is the great difference between the area round the North Pole and that round the South Pole?

2. Tell the story of Captain Scott's last journey to the South Pole.

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